New Bern Avenue BRT Raleigh, North Carolina Small Starts Project Development

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The City of Raleigh (City) proposes to implement a 6.5-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along New Bern Avenue from the Raleigh central business district eastward to North New Hope Road. The project is expected to include 4.75 miles of exclusive bus lanes, with the other 1.75-miles operating in mixed traffic. The project also includes transit signal priority (TSP), 12 BRT stations, off-board fare payment, and six electric battery-powered or compressed natural gas buses. The Project's capital cost estimate is \$63.7 million. The City is still determining the amount of Small Starts program funds it will seek.

The City believes the project would ease congestion along the corridor and accommodate the current demand with an efficient mode of transportation. Additionally, the project would improve access for low income residents, senior citizens, and other underserved populations to major employers and medical facilities in the corridor.

The City plans to select a locally preferred alternative in June 2019 and get it adopted into the fiscally constrained long range plan at that time. The City expects to complete the environmental review by January 2020, receive a Small Starts grant agreement by October 2020, and begin revenue service in 2023.