



CITY OF TUCSON

MEDIA RELEASE



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MODERN STREETCAR PROJECT ENTERS NEXT PHASE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY RTA BOARD

With today's adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Tucson and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the Modern Streetcar Project moves into a new phase of activity. The IGA establishes co-management of the project and provides for the release of \$45.8 million in local funding to complete design, order rail and order streetcar vehicles from Oregon Iron Works/United Streetcar LLC. These local funds are a portion of \$87.7 million in RTA funding for the modern streetcar, which is one project that is part of the \$2.1 billion, 20-year RTA plan approved by voters in May 2006.

"The City of Tucson and the RTA are already collaborating to manage the streetcar project and to ensure its success," said Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup. "This IGA triggers the funds so that in coming months construction contracts will be issued and utility relocation and upgrades will occur along the route." The Mayor acknowledged the on-going support of the Modern Streetcar Project from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the U.S. Department of Transportation, and southern Arizona's congressional delegation. The streetcar project has \$69 million in federal funds to date, including a \$63 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funds and \$6 million in appropriations.

"We believe that the modern streetcar is a critical element in creating an efficient and integrated transit system for our region," said RTA Board Chair and Town of Sahuarita Mayor Lynne Skelton. The voter-approved RTA plan included a total of \$533 million dedicated to transit improvements over the life of the 20-year plan.

The Tucson Modern Streetcar will be a 3.9-mile fixed rail transit system, with a total project cost of \$196.8 million. More than 100,000 people live and work within a half-mile of the route. The project will connect the Arizona Health Sciences Center, The University of Arizona, Main Gate Square, 4th Avenue Shopping District, Congress Shopping and Entertainment District, and the Mercado District on downtown's west side. For more information on the Modern Streetcar, please visit www.TucsonStreetcar.info.

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