



CITY OF TUCSON



# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Contact:** Michael Graham  
Transportation  
837-6686

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**TTY:** 791-2639

## CITY OF TUCSON MODERN STREETCAR PROJECT AWARDED \$63 MILLION TIGER GRANT

The City of Tucson's Modern Streetcar Project has been awarded \$63 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant funding, a program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The City of Tucson was among 1,400 national TIGER Grant applicants competing for a share of the \$1.5 billion program, created to fund innovative multi-modal transportation projects that develop infrastructure and create jobs. The Tucson Modern Streetcar project was Arizona's only TIGER award in this funding round. The \$63 million award marks another successful funding effort by the City of Tucson.

"Funding is in place so that we can finalize streetcar vehicle procurement, solicit bids for all necessary rail and track work, and begin construction," said Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup. The Mayor acknowledged the long-term support of the Modern Streetcar Project from the Federal Transit Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and southern Arizona's congressional delegation. In addition, the Modern Streetcar project has also received \$6 million in Congressional appropriations over the last two years.

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) plan, which voters approved in May 2006, included \$87.7 million in RTA funds to support the streetcar project. "Congratulations to the City of Tucson on receiving the TIGER award. The modern streetcar is a central component in creating a strong, efficient and integrated transit system for our region," said RTA Board Chair and Town of Sahuarita Mayor Lynne Skelton. The RTA plan included a total of \$533 million for transit improvements over the life of the 20-year plan.

"The modern streetcar is of critical importance to any future growth of the University," said University of Arizona President Robert Shelton. "It is the key to connecting the University to downtown, and is an exciting step forward to making this a more livable and vibrant community."

"The modern streetcar will link the west side with the rest of Downtown and beyond. To-date, The Gadsden Company and partners have invested \$28 million on the west side of Interstate 10, anticipating the increase in jobs, homes, shopping and people that the streetcar will bring," said Jerry Dixon, partner in The Gadsden Company. According to Dixon, the Company projects 890 permanent jobs, 400 housing units, a boutique hotel, and retail related to the streetcar's transit oriented development. "This is a great moment – our company has been waiting four years for this announcement."

The Tucson Modern Streetcar will be a 3.9-mile fixed rail transit system, with a total project cost of \$150 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.TucsonStreetcar.info).

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