

Medical Center Extension LRT

Salt Lake City, Utah

(November 2002)

Description

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) is constructing 1.5 miles of double track to extend the existing University Light Rail Transit (LRT) line at Rice-Eccles Stadium to the University of Utah Health Science Complex (Medical Center). The Medical Center LRT project includes three new stations (Huntsman Center, Wasatch Drive, and Medical Center), seven light rail vehicles, and one shared park and ride. The Medical Center LRT line connects the University LRT line, which connects to the existing North/South LRT corridor.

The light rail vehicles will operate primarily at-grade on tracks laid on existing streets and on property owned by the Utah Department of Transportation and the University of Utah. Light rail vehicles will have signal priority similar to that used throughout downtown Salt Lake City on the North/South and University lines. Ridership is estimated at 4,100 average weekday boardings in 2020, including 3,400 new riders.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$89.40 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share for this project is \$53.63 million.

Status

A Major Investment Study (MIS) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were conducted and identified the need for future major transportation investments in the Airport to Medical Center corridor. The DEIS, released July 1997, selected light rail transit (LRT) as the Locally Preferred Alternative. In January 1998, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the project entry into Preliminary Engineering (PE). In September 1998, the Wasatch Front Regional Council released their Long-Range Transportation Plan, which recommended improvements throughout the region. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) re-evaluated the environmental impacts and necessary mitigation measures identified in the DEIS. FTA signed the Airport to University LRT FEIS in March 1999. A Record of Decision for the Airport to Medical Center LRT was completed in December 1999.

In September 2001, FTA approved the project into Final Design. On May 17, 2002, FTA signed an FFGA to implement the extension to the University Medical Center LRT with a revenue operations date scheduled for December 2004.

Construction started in May 2002 using a design-build method and is currently 22 percent complete. Final Design was completed in June 2002. An order for seven light rail vehicles was issued in June 2002 with complete delivery scheduled for November 2003.

Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$2.97 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the project, with an additional \$4.96 million appropriated to the project, but not included in the scope of the FFGA.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment	\$53.63	\$2.97 million appropriated through FY 2002 *
Local:	\$35.76	
TOTAL	\$89.39	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

* An additional \$4.96 million was appropriated for the project in prior years, but was not included in the FFGA commitment.

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