

Canal Streetcar Line

New Orleans, Louisiana

(November 2002)

Description

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is proposing to return streetcar service on Canal Street extending along the Mississippi River to the cemeteries, including a spur on Carrollton Avenue from Canal Street to City Park, a total distance of 5.4 miles of double track. The project also includes 37 stations: 26 stations on Canal Street, five stations on the City Park spur and six stations on the Riverfront Line. In addition, the project includes the assembly of 24 streetcars, real estate acquisition, utility relocation, power distribution, signals, communication systems, upgrades to power substations, track alignments on the Riverfront Line, construction of a paint/vehicle storage facility, and a new service/inspection/storage facility on the grounds of the existing Randolph Street facility on Canal Street. Total capital costs are estimated at \$161.3 million (escalated dollars), including a proposed \$129.05 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds. In the year 2015, RTA estimates that 31,400 average weekday boardings, including 5,300 daily new riders, will occur on the Canal Streetcar Line.

Status

RTA completed a Major Investment Study/Alternatives Analysis of the Canal Street corridor in March 1995. The Regional Planning Commission (local metropolitan planning organization) has included the Canal Streetcar Line and the Carrollton Spur to City Park in the region's long-range transportation plan and Transportation Improvement Program. FTA approved the initiation of preliminary engineering and the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in September 1995. The DEIS was published in March 1997 and the Final EIS was published in July 1997. FTA issued a Record of Decision on the environmental review process in August 1997. RTA initiated final design in September 1997. The U.S. Department of Transportation recommended the project for a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) in the FY 2002 Annual New Starts Report based on an evaluation of the project's New Starts criteria. RTA has submitted a request for an FFGA for the Canal Streetcar Line that FTA has forwarded to Congress. Final design for the project is complete and construction is 30 percent complete.

Section 3030(a)(51) authorizes the Canal Streetcar Line for final design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$70.03 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds to the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Proposed Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts	\$129.05	\$70.03 million appropriated through FY 2002
Local:		
Right-of-Way	\$ 3.20	
RTA Loan Funds	\$ 28.10	
Material Donations (Poles)	\$ 1.00	
TOTAL	\$161.30	

NOTE: Funding proposal reflects assumptions made by project sponsors, and are not DOT or FTA assumptions.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

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