



# Streetcar project overview & FAQs



# Connecting communities

The Riverview Modern Streetcar project is a planned transportation connection that would run along West 7th Street, connecting neighborhoods, anchor destinations, tourists and employers to downtown Saint Paul, Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport (MSP) and the Mall of America™, completing the transit triangle. It would simultaneously increase property values, spur transit-oriented development and improve access to community amenities. Its construction would inject significant capital into the local economy.

The modern streetcar experience offers both an efficient connection between destinations, and an opportunity for tourists and locals alike to “get lost” in the area’s vast recreational and riverfront activities, Saint Paul’s burgeoning vibrant neighborhoods, and destinations like Union Depot, the Xcel Center and Bdote/Historic Fort Snelling. Connecting directly to both airport terminals provides a user-friendly amenity to attract more visitors to Saint Paul, boosting

tourism and convention interest to the many regionally significant attractions along the corridor.

The 12-mile corridor doesn’t just offer the potential to improve connections to our most-traveled destinations, it presents a path toward significant societal, economic and environmental improvements. These related upgrades are included within the project budget and in coordination with project partners to reduce construction impacts.

For more than a decade, community members and stakeholders have shared experiences, concerns and needs to shape efforts to bring improved transit options to the Riverview Corridor. This \$2.1 billion investment in the community and pathway to future growth will lead the way to a stronger, more vibrant, more connected Twin Cities Metro area.



A streetcar’s hop-on, hop-off nature lets riders truly choose their own adventure, offering the flexibility and opportunity to experience the region in a convenient and memorable way.



# Modern Streetcar route map



Modern Streetcar route map

# Streetcar and station benefits



## Environment

Reduces the region's carbon footprint because it's fully electric, producing less air and noise pollution.



## Accessibility

Provides level boarding for riders to walk or roll on, a new river crossing addresses accessibility and mobility barriers while reconnecting our communities.



## Right-sized

The streetcar can carry more people than a bus and is smaller than the existing LRT trains to better fit the context of the neighborhoods it serves.



## Ridership

Approximately 11,200-11,600 average daily riders (estimated for 2040).



## Safety improvements

Enhances bike and pedestrian access with expanded sidewalks, greener streetscaping, additional signalized intersections and safer crosswalks; promotes vibrant stations with technology and lighting features, and a new multi-use path along West 7th Street.



## Comfort

Delivers a smooth ride without typical traffic bumps, with rail embedded right in the street.



## Culture

Encourages community and cultural programming.



## Efficiency

Improves reliability and traffic with advanced signal technology and transit only lanes.

# The desire for a streetcar: Economic vitality and increase in property value

Streetcars don't just move people — they also create incredible economic benefits that support community redevelopment and reinvestment. Communities across North America have adopted this urban lifestyle mode and benefited from tremendous economic and social improvements: We can too.

This project will reignite and reinvigorate the corridor and everything we have to offer. It could add 2,200 residential units and 220,000 square feet of commercial units within Saint Paul proper.

Streetcars would also attract businesses, neighbors, and visitors to our community, making it a more attractive destination for major events, sports, conventions and other tourism opportunities. Given that the new route will connect downtown, the airport and the Mall of America™, it is an accessible way for tourists to enjoy our beautiful and vibrant region.



According to a recent economic development analysis, the Riverview Corridor Modern Streetcar project would spur **\$843 million in growth to Saint Paul real estate values** due to increases in residential and commercial redevelopment activity. That's in addition to improving community connectivity, mobility, transit reliability and safety.



# Streetcar travel times and ridership



The 12-mile Riverview Corridor Modern Streetcar offers the potential to improve connections to our most-traveled destinations.

The Streetcar has an overall advantage vs driving or ABRT. Both Streetcar options provide greater reliability, with segments of dedicated travel lanes free of roadway congestion.

More stations provide more transit opportunities. Both Streetcar options give neighbors and visitors car-free access to multiple destinations: New access to the new Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center and the Dakota Place of Remembrance, a quicker trip to the Mall of America™, plus direct

access to the METRO Blue Line, with seamless access to both airport terminals and downtown Minneapolis.

With only 2 minutes of additional travel time, Streetcar Option 2 provides two additional stations compared to Streetcar Option 1 — stations at Smith Ave. and Jefferson Ave. between Grand Ave. and Sibley Plaza — that give neighbors even more transit connections to neighborhoods, shopping, restaurants and the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area.



2040 Ridership (estimated):  
Approximately **11,200–11,600** average daily riders.

# Streetcar capital and operations and maintenance costs

	Capital cost (2033)	Operations and maintenance cost (2023)
Streetcar option 1	\$2.10 billion	\$34 million
Streetcar option 2	\$2.12 billion	\$34.5 million

The small difference in operating costs between options is attributed to two additional stations in Option 2.



Half of the project cost, **close to \$1 billion, will result in tangible benefits** outside of the Riverview streetcar infrastructure, like **\$535 million in roadway corridor improvements in Saint Paul** and **\$415 million for a new accessible bridge** that will stand for the rest of this century. Also, **\$285 million will be allocated to the creation of a new Mall of America™ station** that will benefit existing METRO Blue Line users and relieve traffic congestion in Bloomington.



# Parking

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Today, 644 on-street parking spaces are on West 7th Street between I-35E and Kellogg.

**Streetcar Option 1** has the biggest impact on on-street parking on West 7th Street due to the dedicated lanes. About 35 spaces remain in the Grand to Kellogg area. All other on-street parking would be removed.

**Streetcar Option 2** retains about 400 on-street parking spaces. These remaining spaces are in the side-running section between Victoria and Kellogg.

A more detailed parking study including identification of potential off-street parking opportunities would be conducted in a future phase, coordinating with businesses on their needs.





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