



LOS ANGELES STREETCAR INC

Streetcar 101: Transit and Mobility

STREETCARS ARE INTEGRAL ELEMENTS OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT



Streetcar stops at red light in Seattle

Streetcars are designed to be a permanent transportation option for urban residents, employees, and visitors. Although they travel at speeds similar to those of a bus, streetcars are preferred circulators because they're easy to use, comfortable, and aesthetically pleasing. Flowing in traffic with automobiles, they are very different from Los Angeles' existing light rail and subway system.

Running on fixed tracks and integrated with the urban environment, riders are assured that a streetcar's route will remain the same while kiosks, architecture, and guideways clearly mark where the streetcar travels. Alignments employing a couplet system on two parallel streets (such as Broadway and Hill in Downtown LA) distribute the benefits of a streetcar system over several blocks and allow a greater area to be targeted for rehabilitation and revitalization.

- Fixed Routes
- Preferred Circulators
- Attracts New Transit Ridership

RIDERSHIP

Ridership Greatly Exceeded Projections in Portland, Seattle, and Phoenix

Large Volume of Transit Riders in LA

Attracts and Retains Riders

Although precise projected ridership numbers have yet to be generated, initial estimates indicate the streetcar will be heavily used throughout the day. Portland initially projected there would be 2,800 daily riders when the city's first line opened, yet the actual figure was closer to 4,000. Tacoma's streetcar system similarly exceeded ridership projections, but multiplied across their entire transportation network – 178,000 yearly boardings leaped to 800,000. Phoenix's recently opened streetcar system projected 26,000 daily riders, but actual daily ridership of 33,000 has exceeded projections. Results have been similar across the U.S., and streetcars have proven themselves capable of attracting and retaining riders.

Los Angeles boasts an additional consideration: its Downtown is substantially denser than most cities with successful streetcar systems and has incredible transit needs. A streetcar system that circulates people Downtown will undoubtedly have significant ridership.

PROMOTING WALKABILITY AND ACTIVATING SIDEWALKS

- Extends Range of Pedestrians
- Highly Predictable
- Easily Accessible

Dependable, safe, and convenient daytime and nighttime Downtown transit systems, streetcars help define and emphasize a district's distinctive character while focusing and shaping development. They promote walkability by extending the distance pedestrians can comfortably cover, and get people out on the sidewalks and interacting with the community. They are easily accessible to parents with strollers and transit dependent individuals, and the nearly seamless transition from curb to streetcar ensures a universally enjoyable streetcar experience.

IMPROVING THE DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION EXPERIENCE

Develops Strong Connections to Existing Transit Service

Connecting to existing downtown subway and light rail service, the streetcar will distribute and circulate people through Downtown, and is likely to reduce the number of buses traveling

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Reduces Noise

Enables Sidewalk Activation

within Downtown Los Angeles. This reduction will enhance the transit rider and pedestrian experience while making outdoor dining and events more pleasurable through significantly diminishing noise pollution along the streetcar route. Preliminary studies also indicate that, as people migrate to Downtown streetcar service, traffic may decrease on some streets.

LAST MILE SOLUTION

Integrates Transit Modes

Links Major Destinations

A Downtown streetcar will provide the “last mile” solution needed to integrate Los Angeles’ current and future rail, bus, and parking facilities together into an innovative, efficient, and modern circulation system. This level of connectivity will enable people to visit entertainment, cultural, and civic destinations – such as the Disney Concert Hall, LA Live/Staples Center, or the Civic Center – while being able to shop, dine, work, or have fun in Downtown’s burgeoning arts, entertainment, and business districts.

QUICK TO BUILD AND INTEGRATE INTO THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT



Tracks integrated with urban environment in Portland

Streetcars are relatively fast to construct, with Portland taking only one week per city block. This pace of construction limits disruptions for business owners, residents, and other stakeholders. After construction is complete, streetcars are quickly integrated into the urban environment because their fixed tracks convey a sense of permanence.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Reduces Carbon Emissions

Facilitates Urban Living

Providing an alternative to private vehicles, streetcars reduce carbon emissions while encouraging pedestrian activity and more sustainable communities. A Downtown streetcar circulation system will offer riders the choice, freedom, and opportunity to embrace a healthier, non-automobile dominated lifestyle.

Connecting to the Metro Red, Purple, and Blue lines, the streetcar will once again link riders with major transit services while being an attractive way to see Downtown without using a car.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Runs on Electricity

Reduces Oil Use and Emissions

Curbs Automobile Dependence

Transportation is responsible for more than two-thirds of our nation’s oil consumption and nearly a third of our carbon dioxide emissions. To decrease our energy dependency and reduce pollution, we need to build transportation systems that use less oil, take advantage of alternative fuels, and shifts urban travel onto highly efficient modes of transit.

Streetcars run on electricity and emit no air pollution. Much of Downtown’s traffic is due to trips between Downtown destinations. By using the streetcar for daily errands, along with other transit methods like walking and bicycling, we can realize massive energy consumption savings.

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