



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BROCHURE



EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries
www.ewgateway.org

ATTN: Terry Freeland
One Memorial Drive, Ste. 1600
St. Louis, Missouri 63106

Phone: (314) 421-4220 or (618) 274-2750

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009

REGIONAL ARTS COMMISSION (RAC)
STUDIO ROOM
6128 DELMAR BLVD.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The East-West Gateway Council of Governments, The Loop Trolley Company, Citizens for Modern Transit and the consultant team welcome you to the St. Louis Loop Trolley Project Public Informational Open House. This is an opportunity for you to express your comments on the proposed alignment(s) and vehicle concept (s) for the St. Louis Loop Trolley System from the Delmar Loop to Forest Park. Situated around the room are a number of information stations. Staff will be available at each station to answer any questions and listen to your comments. Please also remember to fill out a comment form. Thank you for your interest and input!

STATION OVERVIEW

Station #1—Welcome and Sign In

At this station we request that you take the time to register so that you become a part of the project database. We also encourage you to gather information that will aid in your understanding of the project and information being presented at the open house.

Station #2—History and Background

At this station you will learn more about the history and background of the proposed St. Louis Loop Trolley system and how we got where we are today.

Station #3 —Vehicle and Route Alignment Concepts, Key Considerations

At this station you will learn more about the proposed routes, stops, and the type of vehicle for the trolley system, as well as how it will function along the proposed corridor.

Station #4 — Ridership Forecasts and Estimated Costs

At this station you will learn more about ridership characteristics; what it might cost to ride; as well as the cost to build and operate the service each year.

Station #5 — Streetcars and Trolleys in Other Cities (Video)

At this station you will have an opportunity to view other trolley systems—or streetcar systems — that operate successfully in other parts of the United States.

Station #6 — Comments

Your comments are very important to this process. Let us know what you think!!!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The consultant team, led by CH2M HILL, is currently conducting conceptual engineering for the St. Louis Trolley Project. This includes developing a route concept and identifying possible impacts to the man-made and natural environment, developing cost estimates and ridership forecasts, and identifying prospective funding.

PROJECT HISTORY

In 1997, a community planning group engaged in a collaborative process with the City of St. Louis, University City, and Metro to explore ways of cultivating development around the Delmar MetroLink Station and further connecting area neighborhoods to the region. Joe Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill and the guiding force of The Loop's revitalization, recommended constructing a fixed-track, vintage trolley system similar to the one that helped build the area up a century ago. He believed it would catapult economic development, expand accessibility to area attractions, increase tourism, and provide a prototype for stabilizing and improving the quality of life for other neighborhoods in the St. Louis region.

A feasibility study, funded by Metro and completed in December 2000, suggested that an electric trolley line was indeed feasible - and more efficient and appealing than buses disguised to look like trolleys. While a fixed, steel track system would cost more to build, it would last much longer and its annual operating costs would be nearly identical to a rubber-tired trolley. Ridership on the steel-wheeled trolley would be as much as 70 percent higher than comparable bus service.

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) along with Joe Edwards and others created the non-profit Loop Trolley Company (LTC). CMT secured a grant from East-West Gateway Council of Governments and the Missouri Department of Transportation to purchase and renovate two historic vehicles for the new line. The renovation is complete and the cars are currently on display in front of the Missouri History Museum and Commerce Bank in The Loop.