



Transportation

Client

East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Location

St. Louis, Missouri

The Loop Trolley

Project Highlights

- ◆ CH2M HILL is leading a team responsible for planning and designing the heritage streetcar Loop Trolley
- ◆ The team used a Context Sensitive Solutions process to define the environmental, economic, and social context for the project the team then coordinated with stakeholders to refine the context so specific stakeholder concerns were addressed
- ◆ Phase I, Financial Planning, and Phase II, Preliminary Engineering, were completed under budget and ahead of schedule

St. Louis is a city of rich history and culture. As one of the major river cities when the west was first settled, it attracted commerce and development at a rapid rate. The heritage trolley was a sustainable thread in the transportation fabric of those days. Decades later, a concerted effort is now under way to bring the streetcar back to St. Louis through The Loop Trolley project. The project is the result of visionary leadership from the Loop Trolley Corporation and is expected to further the redevelopment of the Loop, named one of America's 10 Great Streets by the American Planning Association in 2007.

CH2M HILL is leading a team responsible for planning and designing the streetcar Loop Trolley. The Loop Trolley will traverse a 2.1-mile corridor and connect two existing light rail transit stops, a major park and tourist destination, and the University City Loop retail area with a single, greenhouse gas minimizing alternative for travel. It will encourage urban infill development that will stimulate the local economy, creating a green benefit. Work on the streetcar includes preliminary track design in combination with utility investigation, operating and financing plans, ridership forecasts, cost estimates, and land use and urban design concepts for the abutting properties. The project development process is being streamlined through cooperation with local agencies and a local group pro-transit, Citizens for Modern Transit.

The project began with a financial planning phase to assist the communities in determining the most appropriate mechanism for raising the necessary money for the project. Upon determining the financial plan for the project, CH2M HILL executed a streamlined planning process to examine a range of alternatives that address the primary intent of the project: to get a cost-effective trolley back in The Loop. Once a preferred alternative was selected, CH2M HILL led the preliminary design of the track, systems, and adjacent street and pedestrian amenities. Total construction cost is currently unknown, but expected to be in the range of \$44 million.

In June 2010, the Loop Trolley Project was selected by the FTA for an Urban Circulator grant. CH2M HILL is now preparing an Environmental Assessment for the project.

About CH2M HILL

Headquartered near Denver, Colorado, USA, employee-owned CH2M HILL is a global leader in consulting, design, design-build, operations, and program management for government, civil, industrial and energy clients. The firm's work is concentrated in the areas of water, transportation, environmental, energy, facilities and resources. With US\$6.3 billion in revenue and 23,000 employees, CH2M HILL is an industry-leading program management, construction management and design firm, as ranked by Engineering News-Record and named a leader in sustainable engineering by Verdantix. The firm has been named a FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work for five times. Visit us at www.ch2mhill.com, twitter.com/ch2mhill and facebook.com/ch2mhill.