

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SPOKANE TRANSIT**

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FTA AWARDS \$53.4M TO SPOKANE'S CITY LINE

SPOKANE, WA – Early today, the U.S. Department of Transportation's top transit official, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams, was on hand to award a \$53.4 million Small Starts Grant to Spokane Transit for the City Line, a 6-mile, all-electric, corridor-based Bus Rapid Transit Line operating between Browne's Addition and Spokane Community College through Downtown Spokane the University District, and Gonzaga University

Speaking alongside Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Williams' official announcement signifies the complete funding for the \$92.2 million transit project with the FTA covering approximately 58 percent of the total estimated cost. Local and state funding committed to the City Line account for the remaining 42 percent.

The City Line entered into FTA's Project Development phase nearly five years ago, and has undergone a rigorous review and refinement process, including an in-depth analysis by FTA and its experts. Because the City Line has met the statutory requirements for funding and substantially mitigated potential risks, the FTA's award enables the project to advance to construction this spring. The City Line service is anticipated to begin in May 2022*.

"Today's announcement is historic for the Spokane region," said E. Susan Meyer, STA's Chief Executive Officer. "This is the first Small Starts Grant awarded in Eastern Washington, and for the region's first Bus Rapid Transit line. We have so many community members and elected officials to thank for coming together and coalescing around this transformational project. Now we build it."

A previous FTA announcement in April 2019 indicated the \$53.4 million had been allocated, or set aside, for the project. Today's announcement grants Spokane Transit direct access to the funding.

More details about the City Line are available at www.spokanetransit.com.

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STA provides public transportation services through fixed route (bus) service, paratransit operations and vanpool to the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Spokane and Spokane Valley and parts of the unincorporated County. The organization employs more than 600 people and is overseen by a 12-member regional board: nine voting elected officials from Spokane County and cities in the Public Transportation Benefit Area, two non-voting elected officials from area small cities, and a non-voting labor member. For more information about STA, please visit www.spokanetransit.com.

**The completion date for City Line was revised to July 2023 on October 6, 2021.*