



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington DC 20590

JUN 30 2015

Ms. E. Susan Meyer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Spokane Transit Authority  
1230 West Boone Avenue  
Spokane, WA 98201

Re: Project Development Initiation – Spokane Central City Line

Dear Ms. Meyer:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 3, 2014, requesting entry into the Project Development (PD) phase under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Small Starts program for Spokane Transit Authority's Central City Line. After reviewing your initial letter, FTA requested additional information that was submitted on January 2, 2015, February 4, 17, and 25, 2015 and on May 29, 2015. At that time, FTA determined that the information provided is sufficient to enter the PD phase. Per the requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21), the following activities must be completed during PD:

- Select a locally preferred alternative;
- Have the locally preferred alternative adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan;
- Complete the environmental review process; and
- Complete the activities required to develop sufficient information for evaluation and rating under the Section 5309 criteria.

FTA encourages you to familiarize yourself with the information found on the Capital Investment Grant program webpage at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/12304.html>. There you will find more details and information on the activities mentioned above including answers to frequently asked questions and the information that must be provided to FTA for eventual project evaluation and rating.

FTA will be in contact to discuss its technical assistance and project oversight plans as the project moves through PD. FTA would appreciate periodic updates from Spokane Transit Authority on the status of completion of PD activities.

With this entry into PD, Spokane Transit Authority has pre-award authority to incur costs for PD activities prior to grant approval and to retain eligibility of those activities for future FTA grant assistance. PD activities include the work necessary to complete the environmental review

process and as much engineering and design activities as Spokane Transit Authority believes are necessary to support the environmental review process. Upon completion of the environmental review process, FTA extends pre-award authority to project sponsors in PD to incur costs for as much engineering and design as necessary to develop a reasonable cost estimate and financial plan for the project, utility relocation, and real property acquisition and associated relocations. This pre-award authority does not constitute a commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for PD or any other project cost. As with all pre-award authority, relevant Federal requirements must be met prior to incurring costs in order to preserve eligibility of the costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Maurice Foushee at (202) 366-1636 or [Maurice.Foushee@dot.gov](mailto:Maurice.Foushee@dot.gov).

Sincerely,



Lucy Garliauskas  
Associate Administrator for Planning  
and Environment

cc: Richard Krochalis, Regional Administrator