Progressive Transit for San Antonio
Proposal for a Modern Multimodal System
That Meets or *Exceeds* all the Goals of Streetcar *and* Entertainment/Cultural Circulator
GOALS

- Enhance travel to, from, and within the CBD
- Connect the CBD and neighborhoods to cultural, entertainment, education, hospitality, and historic destinations
- Relieve traffic and downtown parking congestion
- Induce non-transit users to ride VIA
- Provide a Riverwalk-quality amenity to draw tourists up from the River to visit street-level attractions
- Connect millennials to center city living spaces, work spaces, entertainment, education, and each other
- Remove crowded transfer stops and noisy, smelly diesel buses from main downtown streets
- Establish true multimodal transit system
APPROACH

• Establish new routes specifically for the CBD + Entertainment, Cultural & Arts attractions + Higher Education & Millennials
• Distinguish this new service from standard VIA buses with unique vehicles
• Expand the “brand” of San Antonio – Riverwalk barges, historic downtown, etc. – to a street-level amenity with historic-looking ultra-modern rubber-wheeled electric trolleys
• Originate all routes from Westside Multimodal Center
• Reroute standard bus service from CBD to Multimodal Center, removing standard buses and crowded transfer stops from CBD street corners
• Clearly establish Multimodal Center as just that - the nexus of multiple modes of transportation
The Vehicle: US-made by Hometown Trolley

- State-of-the-art, all-electric, low-floor vehicle
- +/- 140 mile range between charges
- Nearly unlimited range when combined with an in-pavement induction plate charging system (approx. every 10 miles)
Proposed Routing
Proposed Routing
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“The Brain Train”
Connects:
• 7 colleges/universities
• 5 museums
• 3 historic missions
• Hundreds of existing neighborhoods
• Thousands of new apartments/condos
• Grocery stores, shopping, restaurants, theaters, sports, entertainment...

All through the CBD – the heart of the city
The electric trolley routing as proposed can entirely replace standard VIA buses from the heart of downtown, making the Westside Multimodal Center the terminal for all transfer traffic. All routes now connecting at surface street stops downtown should, instead, connect conveniently at the Multimodal Center.

Quiet, emission-free electric trolleys, aesthetically compatible with the historic CBD, will provide downtown circulation, as well as connecting tourists and locals to entertainment, arts, dining, shopping, and living spaces.
When VIA develops commuter rail in the future, the Westside Multimodal Center will fulfill one more function, as the downtown terminal for the rail lines which already reach the back side of the building.
As a Riverwalk-quality amenity, linking important attractions, universities, and neighborhoods with the center of the city, trolleys will become a common connector for visitors and locals alike.

Just like the Riverwalk connects everyone from the Pearl to the missions, and unites locals with tourists, young with old, bar goers with joggers, the trolleys will become the arteries connecting the city center with the heart of San Antonio.
A Healthy CBD – Heart of the City
Projected cost:
• Less than $60 million – full invoice price
• Extensive grants and subsidies available to reduce the actual out-of-pocket cost

Construction/installation disruption:
• Minimal – very short term, and only localized at site of induction charging plates

Lead time to begin operation:
• Approx. 90 days for initial deliveries
• 18-24 months to deliver all vehicles to outfit system

Absolute flexibility to add/extend routes, avoid obstacles, adapt service for special occasions
Compare to Streetcar:
• Approx. $300 million
• Widespread construction disruption
• 3+ years before operational
No ability to avoid obstacles or adapt to special occasions, and extremely expensive to add/extend routes
Terminated Streetcar
Proposed Trolley

“The Brain Train”
the \textbf{GREENSTREET}

Classic Streetcar Trolley - Electric, Eco-friendly Power

\begin{itemize}
  \item zero emissions
  \item 140 miles per charge
  \item recharge in 4-5 hours
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