

1.0 Introduction

The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) has developed the DC's Transit Future System Plan which establishes a vision of the future transit system for the District that includes the re-introduction of streetcar services and the continued expansion of Metro Express limited-stop bus services.

This document summarizes the results of an update of the system plan conducted in 2010, which is based on the original system plan completed in 2005 and a subsequent refinement of the plan completed in 2008. The 2010 update includes refinements to the streetcar component of the system plan that considers updated population and employment forecasts, development trends and planned development projects identified since 2005, opportunities to coordinate the expansion of streetcar with other planned infrastructure projects, a re-evaluation of streetcar projects based on updated data, and an extensive public and agency review process. A revised system plan has been developed based on the results of this process. The system plan identifies the general corridors to be served by the streetcar and limited-stop bus services. An updated phasing strategy and funding strategies have also been included.

This report is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Purpose and Need** – Chapter 2 includes an outline of project goals and objectives and a discussion of how they served as the basis for identifying the plan's recommended improvements. The chapter also summarizes the results of a transit needs assessment that considers projected population and employment growth, mobility needs for District residents, core capacity constraints for the existing Metrorail and Metrobus system, and economic and community development initiatives in the city.
- **Chapter 3: Planning Process** – Chapter 3 briefly describes the process that was used to identify the recommended improvements included in the original system plan. It provides thorough documentation of the planning activities completed in 2010 that formed the basis for the plan update.

- **Chapter 4: Recommended System Plan** – Chapter 4 describes the recommended system plan that emerged from the planning process completed in 2010. This includes a description of the streetcar and bus elements of the plan and the phasing strategy for system construction and operation. A segment analysis per line was also conducted providing population, employment and ridership data; as well as, the key strengths of the area. The chapter also presents a strategy for establishing needed maintenance and storage facilities to support the proposed streetcar system. A financial plan that includes estimated capital and operating costs for the streetcar system and a proposed funding strategy are also presented in Chapter 4.
- **Chapter 5: Moving Forward** – Chapter 5 describes the required project development steps for individual streetcar projects seeking federal funding participation. These steps address the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process as well as the required review and approvals necessary to remain eligible for federal funding under the Section 5309 New Starts program. The chapter also discusses potential project delivery approaches.

