



Comments: Northwest Rail Governments Team

Commuter Rail Technology Selection

Comments due Friday, September 28, 2007

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Commenting Agency: 36 Commuting Solutions

Comments
1. The Northwest Rail Project Team is making a preliminary recommendation to the public, agencies, and the RTD Board to initiate service for the Northwest Rail corridor in 2015 with Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) Commuter Rail Technology .
a. Do you support this recommendation? If so, why?
Understanding the FasTracks budgetary impacts to consider EMU, we accept DMU as the commuter rail technology choice.
b. Do you disagree with this recommendation? If so, why?
c. Other comments:



<p>2. After the three Public Workshops, Northwest Rail Governments Team representatives will meet to provide their input on the preliminary Project Team recommendation. This input and the input collected at the public workshops will then be forwarded to the RTD Board.</p>
<p>a. Taking into account the FasTracks budget and the cost of implementing Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) technology on the Northwest Rail corridor, do you see any other options that RTD should consider?</p>
<p>Not at this time.</p>
<p>b. If the RTD Board supports DMU as the recommended technology for the Northwest Rail corridor, what other issues specific to DMU technology should the Environmental Evaluation address?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We ask RTD to commit to a full range of noise mitigation strategies as outlined in the West Corridor’s “Noise Mitigation Measures for Moderate Impacts” in the severe and moderate category. ▪ We request the project team share all analysis around noise, vibration, ridership projections and air quality with the local governments along the Northwest Rail corridor at your earliest convenience. ▪ We request a strong commitment to maintaining and improving air quality by using clean burning fuels and advanced hybrid technologies. ▪ We request that RTD commit to adhering to federal and state air quality standards, including the EPA’s Tier 4 exhaust emission standards when implemented. We understand that new vehicles will be purchased every two years, which allows an opportunity to stay in compliance with changing regulations. A review should be conducted prior to each purchase of new units to make use of emission-reduction technology. ▪ We would like to see RTD undertake fuel prioritization strategies to insure that diesel is available for the trains and other transit operations in event of fuel shortages. ▪ We request that RTD commit to basing service levels of the trains on system-wide productivity levels, rather than on the price of diesel fuel. ▪ We request that RTD commit to ensuring maximum interoperability between the DMU on the Northwest Rail and the rest of the system. By insuring that DMU vehicles can operate on EMU lines, service expansions to popular destinations such as DIA would be possible.
<p>c. Other comments:</p>



3. For the remainder of the year, the Environmental Evaluation will be looking at stations and Commuter Rail track alignment for the Northwest Rail corridor. RTD will present the results of this analysis at Public Workshops in January 2008.

a. What should the study consider as it examines these issues?

- To mitigate emissions at the rail stations, we ask RTD to investigate IT resources to inform commuters driving to the station where parking spaces are available, and to include strong local transit, bicycle and pedestrian connections in the design of stations.
- Lastly, we request that the EE process identify what quiet-zone related infrastructure RTD will build as part of the project.
- We are concerned about the toxic health effect of diesel emissions and request RTD take a leadership role to educate the public and local agencies about the impacts. In addition, we request RTD include mitigation measures to minimize the health impacts, such as establishing air quality zones (similar to a quiet zone for noise impacts) in dense urban locations, adjacent to schools, etc.

b. What other comments do you have about the Environmental Evaluation?