

The Kansas City Streetcar Authority (KCSA) partnered with the City of North Kansas City, Missouri (NKC), the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), and the City of Kansas City, Missouri (KCMO) to refresh the feasibility of a streetcar over the Missouri River. The 2022 NorthRail Refresh Study evaluated river crossing options, identified a preferred alignment, and potential stop locations to connect Downtown Kansas City and North Kansas City via a modern KC Streetcar expansion.

PURPOSE

✓ CONNECT

- » North Kansas City and the Northland with Downtown Kansas City, Missouri
- » “Fast and Frequent” service over the Missouri River

✓ ENHANCE

- » Accessibility for all users over the Missouri River
- » Mobility choices for the metropolitan region
- » Options for future connections to regional transit
- » Climate protection and resilience through more efficient and environmentally friendly travel

✓ DEVELOP

- » Proven catalyst for economic development
- » Support goals of the NKC Comprehensive Plan

NEED

The NorthRail Streetcar Extension project will continue the efforts and themes of the existing Streetcar system—to provide mobility and connectivity, economic development and growth, community amenities and improved livability, and sustainability. The Missouri River serves as a significant barrier between North Kansas City and downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

The NorthRail Streetcar Extension seeks to build upon the success of the downtown KC Streetcar and continue connecting neighborhoods. With the KC Streetcar system already extending to UMKC and the Berkley Riverfront area, the NorthRail extension will continue to create stronger connections for residents, employees, and visitors; connecting NKC to the Riverfront, downtown Kansas City, midtown, and activity centers further south such as Country Club Plaza and UMKC.

EVALUATION PROCESS

A two-tiered screening process was used to evaluate multiple options and narrow down to a locally preferred alternative. The study area was segmented into three distinct geographic segments:

- » South of the Missouri River (in KCMO)
- » HOA Bridge (3rd St in KCMO - 10th Ave in NKC)
- » North Kansas City (10th Ave - 32nd Ave)

The locally preferred alternative is based on a combination of technical evaluation and public preference.

To find out more about the NorthRail study visit:

www.kcstreetcar.org/about-streetcar/northrail/





LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: STREETCAR

The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is a streetcar route along the following alignments in each segment of the study area:

South of the Missouri River (3rd/5th Couplet)

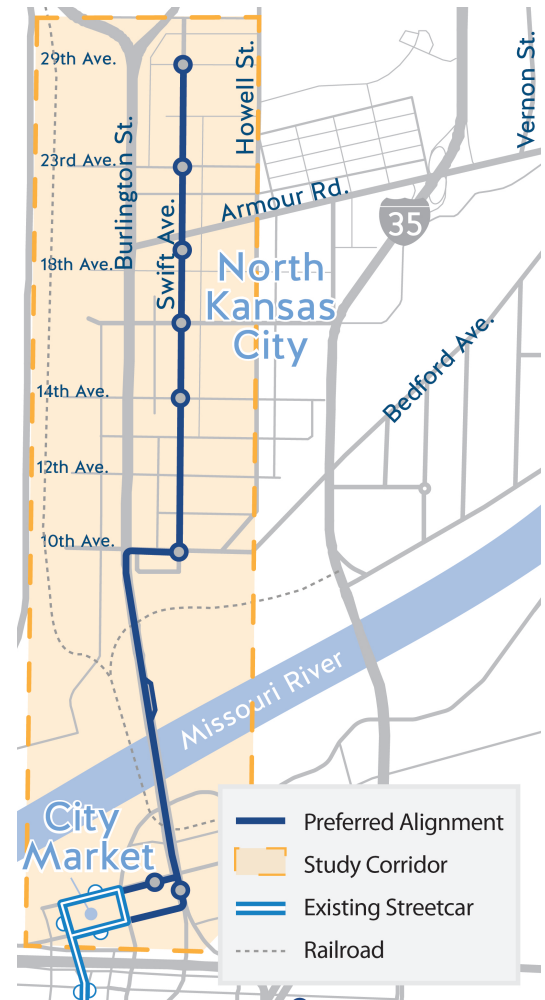
- » Retained operational flexibility for “Downtown Loop”
- » Strong community preference for a station in close proximity to the Columbus Park neighborhood

HOA Bridge (East Option)

- » Crosses Highway 9 south of the Missouri River rather than at 10th Street (better alignment with the “Swift” alternative)
- » Better accommodates bridge maintenance and aligns with Missouri Department of Transportation’s stated preference
- » Strong community preference for the streetcar to provide separation buffer for the bicycle and pedestrian connector in the outside lane

North Kansas City (Swift)

- » Community, City, and Stakeholder vision for the future of North Kansas City and its “Main Street” (land use compatibility and future forecasts)
- » Fewer implementation hurdles regarding regulatory bodies and permitting requirements
- » Freight and vehicle impacts are less significant on Swift (as compared to Burlington)



NEXT STEPS

The study showed there is support in the community for the NorthRail extension, and there continues to be significant economic development that is occurring in NKC that will bring added businesses and residents in close proximity. Several critical steps are needed to advance the project:

- » Form a working group focused on advancing a financial strategy north of the river
- » Incorporate LPA into MARC’s Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- » Secure funding to advance environmental study and conceptual engineering
- » Build support and advance regional funding and/or TDD expansion to support implementation

