

TIGER VIII GRANT SUMMARY | GREENLINK: CREATING CIRCUITS OF ECONOMIC SUCCESS

Based on positive feedback from their TIGER VII application, the City of Greenville, Greenlink and Greenville County are leading a collaborative effort to re-apply this April for more than \$11 million in TIGER Discretionary Grant funding from the United States Department of Transportation. This grant application brings together more than 40 regional partners including municipalities, private corporations, non-profit organizations, business associations and others to address one of the region's biggest barriers to economic and workforce development.

If received, this grant will transform the current Greenlink transit system into a regional transportation network designed to reach the farthest points of the county with express bus routes served by zero-emission, electric buses. The transformed system will feature commuter express lines with enhanced rider amenities from Travelers Rest to Fountain Inn, and from Greer to SCTAC, with reduced headways and expanded hours of service to better accommodate flexible work schedules and manufacturing shift changes. Procurement of 10 zero-emission, electric buses and two EV charging stations will create the core of an innovative transportation network that not only makes jobs, health care and education more accessible to all Greenville County residents, but also addresses road congestion, air quality and oil dependency issues.

Along two corridor express routes – the Gold Line and the Blue Line - there will be 24 multimodal transit stations and bike-share systems. Proposed transit stations are:

GOLD Line:

Travelers Rest
Furman University
Cherrydale Shopping Center
West Greenville Neighborhood/ Amtrak
Greenlink Transfer Center
East Washington Neighborhood
Ackley/Nicholtown Neighborhood
University Center Midtown Transfer
Haywood Shopping Center
Verdae Neighborhood
CU-ICAR (Clemson Transfer)
Mauldin City CBD
Simpsonville City CBD
Hillcrest Hospital
Fountain Inn City CBD

BLUE Line:

Greer City CBD
Taylors Neighborhood
Hampton Village Shopping Center
Bob Jones University
TD Convention Center
University Center Midtown Transfer
Greenville Technical College
Augusta Road Neighborhood
Mauldin Road Neighborhood
SCTAC (former Donaldson Center)

Building upon the TIGER II grant received by the City of Greenville in 2010 and the subsequent West Greenville Comprehensive Plan, this TIGER VIII proposal also calls for the creation of circulator routes to connect West Greenville and other underserved neighborhoods within the City of Greenville, as well as the municipalities of Travelers Rest, Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Fountain Inn to the greater Greenlink system's express and fixed routes.

Additionally, this grant requests funding for activation of Greenville County's abandoned railroad corridor to extend the multimodal Swamp Rabbit Trail (SRT) from E. Washington Street to CU-ICAR, a trail bridge on Highway 253, and six connections between the transit system and the SRT creating geographic Ladders of Opportunities. Activating the SRT complements a regional transit system by providing a multimodal, 'last-mile' connection to jobs and educational opportunities along a major county thoroughfare (Laurens Road). Activation of this corridor includes a connection to the Arcadia Hills community, a redeveloped neighborhood in a distressed area of the county made possible by two federal HOPE VI grants, as well as Verdae, a master-planned, mixed-use neighborhood. The application also includes connections between the transit system and the multimodal SRT through low income communities including Ackley/Nicholtown, Sans Souci, Poe Mill, and Sycamore communities and to the Haywood Road station. These connections will serve as pilot safety programs and working models for future community connections between the transformed transit system and the multimodal transportation corridor.

March 2016