As a result of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant, transit riders will soon realize enhanced service along the Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway Transit Corridor. Work will begin in March on a traffic signal priority system (TSP). Soon thereafter, a formal groundbreaking ceremony will be conducted. (More details on the groundbreaking will be issued soon.) Construction of the improvements, for which $10,714,000 has been allocated, is expected to be completed in the Fall.

The improvements encompass:

- Enhanced transit stations and park-and-ride facilities, including high-quality finishes, monument signage, enhanced lighting, branding to distinguish enhanced service from local service, kiosks with route and schedule information and digital message boards with real-time, next-bus arrival information;
- Improved pedestrian access, including sidewalks, crosswalks, bike-hike trails, and landscaping. A pedestrian corridor along Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park will connect several enhanced stations. Pedestrian and roadway improvements in Mission will be made at Martway and Broadmoor; and sidewalk improvements will also connect the sidewalk system on Roe Avenue and Johnson Drive to the Roeland Park station.
- A TSP will be implemented, allowing buses to extend green signals or shorten red signals when transit vehicles are behind schedule; and
- A transit center will be constructed near Mission’s downtown to support existing transit service as well as planned enhanced service.

This project is an investment in the region’s transportation system, designed to improve capacity, reduce travel delays, and ease congestion. It also will play a vital role in the redevelopment and revitalization along Metcalf Avenue and Shawnee Mission Parkway through a direct relationship between providing transit service infrastructure and supporting economic development and redevelopment.
Corridor Description
The corridor extends from the Rosana Square park-and-ride located at the northwest corner of 119th Street and Metcalf Avenue, proceeding north on Metcalf Avenue to Martway Street in Mission, and then generally goes east on Martway Street, Johnson Drive, and Shawnee Mission Parkway and eventually into Kansas City, Missouri. The final project will have:

- eighteen transit stations;
- three park-and-ride facilities;
- pedestrian access improvements on Metcalf Avenue from 87th to College Boulevard and in Mission along Rock Creek and near Target;
- pedestrian access and road reconstruction improvements at Broadmoor and Martway;
- the TSP, which will improve bus movement, timing and efficiency; and
- the transit center adjacent to Mission’s downtown, for existing and future bus services.

Next Steps
Traffic signal priority system construction begins March 2012
Official groundbreaking Spring 2012
Ribbon cutting Fall 2012

Project Partners
The Metcalf/Shawnee Mission Parkway grant was awarded to Johnson County Transit, which is working in partnership with the Mid-America Regional Council, the cities of Overland Park, Mission, and Roeland Park. The consultant team is led by Olsson Associates and also includes Bowman, Bowman Novick Inc.; Shockey Consulting Services; and EATS.

More Information
Project: http://tiny.cc/opmetcalftransit
TIGER Grant: www.marc.org/TIGER/
The JO: www.thejo.com