

Media release

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Transforming Urban Mobility in Texas: Next-Generation Light Rail Vehicles for Austin

Stadler and Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) announced a contract for the design of 21 state-of-the-art light rail vehicles, with options for an additional 19 trains. This marks a defining advancement in the future of mobility in Austin, Texas, as they introduce their first light rail line, with all-electric trains running every 5-10 minutes throughout the day.

Stadler continues to strengthen its leadership in North America: Austin's first light rail system will feature 15 stations along a nearly 10-mile alignment with all-electric trains running every 5-10 minutes throughout most of the day. The system is designed to be fully expandable to support future growth. At the heart of this project is innovation. The vehicles – based on Stadler's popular CITYLINK platform – feature 100% low-floor aisles throughout the entire train. It is a first-of-its-kind design that eliminates the internal step-over within the aisles, typically required above powered wheelsets. This breakthrough creates a seamless, fully accessible passenger experience unlike any light rail vehicle currently in operation in the United States. The vehicles will be assembled at Stadler's factory in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is Stadler's 5th project in the state of Texas.

"ATP is excited to have Stadler join the Austin Light Rail team to design a vehicle with features never before delivered in the United States," says Greg Canally, ATP's CEO. "The action today demonstrates our commitment to build a light rail system that is right for Austin as ATP keeps advancing the project."

Redefining Accessibility and Performance

Designed to bridge the gap between urban streetcars and high-performance rail systems, the vehicles combine easy access into the dense city environment of Austin with mainline capabilities reaching speeds of up to 65 mph outside the city center.

Each five-car train offers:

- Capacity for around 240 passengers
- ADA-compliant zones inside the train for accessible travel
- Flexible multi-purpose areas for bikes, luggage, and strollers

The design process will include opportunities for the Austin community to provide input on elements such as vehicle color schemes, seating configurations, accessibility features and wayfinding elements to benefit customer experience.

A project designed for growth

Stadler will play an active role in shaping both the vehicle and system design, ensuring seamless integration with Austin's brand-new light rail infrastructure, anticipated to begin construction in 2027.

The initial light rail line will connect iconic destinations across Austin, forming the first phase of a system that will expand – including a future connection to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

The project also includes an option for a Technical Support and Spare Supply Agreement (TSSSA), marking Stadler's fifth long-term service contract in the United States and third service contract in Texas, underscoring the company's commitment to lifecycle support and local partnership.

Light Rail Renaissance: Vehicles with higher performance and greater accessibility

This award builds on Stadler's growing presence in North America, including its UTA TRAX light rail vehicle contract awarded in 2024, and positions the company at the forefront of a broader resurgence in U.S. transit investment.

As cities across the country modernize existing fleets and develop new light rail lines, demand is rising for vehicles that deliver higher performance, greater accessibility, and operational flexibility.

Martin Ritter, CEO Stadler Division North America says "Stadler's CITYLINK platform is setting a new benchmark – defining what the next generation of light rail vehicles can be in the United States. Together with Austin Transit Partnership, we are helping shape a new era of transit in one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States."

About Stadler

Stadler has been building trains for over 80 years. The provider of mobility solutions in rail vehicle construction, service and signalling technology has its headquarters in Bussnang in eastern Switzerland. Over 17,500 employees work at 8 production and 6 engineering sites and over 80 service locations, including around 6,000 in Switzerland. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of vehicles with alternative drive systems (hydrogen and battery) and rack railway vehicles. The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and therefore stands for innovative, sustainable and durable quality products.

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