



CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

January 29, 2010

Peter Rogoff, Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Leslie Rogers, Regional Administrator
FTA Region IX

Re: Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar—Urban Circulator Grant Application

Dear Mr. Rogoff and Mr. Rogers:

The City of Sacramento is an innovator in livable community initiatives. The Sacramento Regional Blueprint has coordinated transportation and land use decisions throughout the region, and endorsed the vision of our downtown and riverfront as the heart of the region. The Blueprint process engaged and won the support of the business community, residents, and political leadership, and has resulted in tangible change, since adopted by Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) in 2004. As you know, it is one of the models upon which the Livability Initiative was based. Similar to the Blueprint, the City of Sacramento's recently adopted General Plan also included extensive public participation and the plan embraces similar principles. The Downtown/Riverfront streetcar line is a key element for each of these plans.

Our city feels there is a compelling need to connect our riverfront with the rest of civic life. Too long neglected and underused, the Sacramento River, has the potential to become a beautiful focal point for both Sacramento and our neighbor and partner city, West Sacramento. The City of Sacramento is also undertaking a variety of new initiatives in downtown including redevelopment of the Railyards, the nation's most significant infill redevelopment opportunity, and pursuing options for a new entertainment and sports complex. Integrating transportation and land use is central to our strategy. The Downtown/Riverfront streetcar is a vital part of these efforts.

This application is for the project's first phase, to connect the Tower Bridge to the threshold of Downtown Sacramento via street car. The streetcar's full value will be realized when it's connected to the regional transportation network including light rail and Amtrak. The City of Sacramento recognizes the tremendous benefit that a streetcar system will offer our community.

Our city is eager to see tangible benefits, and looking forward to connecting the vibrant restaurant and nightlife in midtown with the convention center, the State Capitol, existing and planned entertainment and sports complexes, new housing developments, our emerging intermodal transportation center, high-speed and regional rail, and the riverfront. We are

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



CITY HALL
915 I STREET, FIFTH FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2672

KEVIN JOHNSON
MAYOR

PH 916-808-5407
FAX 916-264-7680
mayor@cityofsacramento.org

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dedicated to working with our partners in creating this important link to facilitate downtown circulation and bring new life to our riverfront and the region's urban core. Approval of a grant for Phase 1 construction is an essential first step to propel us forward. On behalf of the City of Sacramento, I offer my support of this application.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson
MAYOR