



February 5, 2010

Mr. Peter Rogoff, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
East Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Leslie Rogers, Regional Administrator
FTA Region IX
201 Mission Street
Suite 1650
San Francisco, CA 94105-1839

**RE: Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Urban Circulator Grant
Application**

Dear Mr. Rogoff and Mr. Rogers:

On behalf of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, I write to enthusiastically support the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar Urban Circulator Grant Application. SACOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments for the six-county Sacramento region.

SACOG also led the Blueprint project, a collaborative effort to link land use and transportation planning in the Sacramento region. Nationally recognized, the Blueprint is the model for integrated regional planning with extensive community involvement. The Sacramento region is demonstrating that coordinated planning for sustainable development, that expresses the ideals of livability and economic vitality, can gain support across a wide spectrum of interests.

SACOG has directly supported planning and development of the Downtown Riverfront Streetcar specifically through two grants: in 2006, with a \$500,000 grant to fund the initial feasibility study; and in 2007, with a \$175,000 grant to integrate streetcar improvements in West Capitol Avenue, in coordination with streetscape improvements.

The cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento have been enthusiastic and exemplary partners in implementing the Blueprint principles. Both have adopted land use plans and made infrastructure investments in mixed use, transit oriented neighborhoods within the area that would be served by the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar.

Mr. Peter Rogoff, Administrator

Page 2

February 8, 2010

I believe that the proposal before you is the perfect project to demonstrate the principles and goals of the Livability Initiative. The selection criteria for the Urban Circulator Grant read as if they are written for the Sacramento region and the Downtown/Riverfront Streetcar. The emphasis on Livability and Sustainability are exactly what we have embodied in the Blueprint. Both the process, which included an unprecedented scope and degree of community participation, and the product, which coordinated transportation and land use planning decisions, speak to the same ideals as the FTA's Livability Initiative.

The 31 city and county elected officials on our Board of Directors unanimously approved lending our enthusiastic support to this proposal. I am personally pledging my vigorous efforts and creative energy to see it through to success, and to create opportunities for further extensions in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKeever". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "McKeever" clearly distinguishable.

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:EJ:ef