


metrochamber

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PRESIDENT & CEO
Matthew Mahood
Sacramento Metro Chamber

February 3, 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:

Sacramento Metro Chamber is a business organization dedicated to creating jobs and advancing economic development throughout the Sacramento region. As the largest and most influential business organization in the Sacramento region, we champion positions on a range of issues including transportation and air quality. We are proud of the diverse and far sighted group of employers that we represent for their support and participation in the Sacramento Region Blueprint, and for the groundbreaking legislation it spawned, AB32 and SB375, here in California. We have embraced linking transportation and land use in our planning for future development in the region, and include support for public transportation projects in our annual business agenda.

It's in that context that we lend our enthusiastic support to the application for an Urban Circulator grant for the Downtown/Riverfront streetcar. I am personally familiar with Portland and how streetcar has stimulated new development in the Pearl District and brought added vitality to downtown and great neighborhoods like Northwest. We feel we have direct analogies here in the Sacramento region, with tremendous infill opportunities at the Bridge District and the Railyards, and vibrant mixed use neighborhoods like Midtown and downtown, that stand to benefit from the addition of streetcar.

The Metro Chamber believes that issues impacting our economy and quality of life are regional in nature, crossing political and jurisdictional boundaries. That is why we encourage a cooperative approach to address and solve important issues, and why we see the Downtown/Riverfront streetcar as an important piece of the region's transportation and economic development infrastructure. The proposal before you has come about as a result of cooperation among two cities, two counties, two transit agencies, the business community, residents, and property owners .

The Sacramento Metro Chamber is the largest, oldest and most prominent voice of business in the greater Sacramento area. Representing nearly 2,300 member businesses and business organizations in the six-county Sacramento region, the Sacramento Metro Chamber serves as the region's leading proponent of regional cooperation and primary advocate on issues affecting business, economic development and quality of life.

Again, on behalf of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, I offer my enthusiastic support for the Downtown/Riverfront streetcar and the application for funding.

Sincerely,

 Matthew R. Mahood
President and CEO