



Charlotte CENTER CITY Partners

February 5, 2010

John Mrzygod
Streetcar Project Manager
600 E. 4th St., 14th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28202

RE: City of Charlotte Application for Discretionary Program Grants for Urban Circulator Systems

Dear Mr. Mrzygod,

I am pleased to submit this letter to indicate Charlotte Center City Partners' strong support for the City's application for federal grant funds to build the 1.5 mile segment of streetcar. We are thrilled about the potential for beginning an operable segment of streetcar connecting so many key destinations. We know that operating a streetcar along the corridor from Presbyterian Hospital to the Charlotte Transportation Center will capture not just existing bus riders but will attract thousands more who will see Charlotte's historic trolley cars and start using transit to travel to the heart of our downtown and to destinations like the Time Warner Cable Arena, Central Piedmont Community College, the Elizabeth Avenue business district and Presbyterian Hospital.

We recognize that this project meets all of the criteria for these FTA grant dollars but understand that the total cost of the project exceeds the \$25 million maximum allowed under the grant regulations. Charlotte's elected leaders also understand the importance of streetcar to our City. As a result, despite difficult budgetary times, the City Council has voted to allocate \$12 million in matching dollars so that the segment can be built and begin operating as soon as possible. We urge FTA to fully fund our grant application at the \$24.99 million that is being requested in recognition of the 50% match that is already being provided.

As you know, Charlotte Center City Partners' mission is to facilitate and promote the economic, cultural and residential development of the urban core of our city. We believe firmly that investing in transit, and particularly in streetcar, is one of the single most important investments can make in our City right now. We applaud the City's efforts to develop a grant application and urge the Federal Transit Administration to fund this grant application. Center City Partners looks forward to partnering with CATS to make sure that the streetcar becomes a reality in Charlotte.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Smith
President & CEO

c: Elizabeth Day, FTA Office of Planning and Environment

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