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Ms. Elizabeth Day
 Office of Planning and Environment
 Federal Transit Administration

Dear Ms. Day:

I have asked that this letter of support be included with the application materials being submitted by the City of Charlotte for funds from the Urban Circulator Program Grant in order to fund a portion of the costs for the City's Streetcar Starter Project.

This project will not be just another downtown-to-suburbs commuter line. It will instead knit together several inner city and inner ring neighborhoods that will greatly benefit from the development potential the streetcar line will likely seed. It will help create an "alternative spine" through the center of Charlotte from the predominately African-American communities around Johnson C. Smith University connecting to the mixed race and mixed ethnicity neighborhoods on the eastside of the city anchored along Central Avenue. (Most of Charlotte's principal transportation routes follow a north-south orientation; this one will provide an essential east-west linkage.) In between, it will connect those communities with the area's major jobs training center - Central Piedmont Community College - and with some of its major employers, including Presbyterian Hospital. I believe you will be hard-pressed to find any other project application that better matches the objectives and possibilities of the FTA's Livable Communities initiative.

Thank you for considering my views on the application. I support it without reservation.

Very truly yours,

Daniel G. Clodfelter

