

MELVIN L. WATT
12TH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3312

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February 4, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the grant application submitted by the City of Charlotte for Section 5309 Discretionary Grants for the Urban Circulator Program (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 20.500).

The City of Charlotte's application for Urban Circulator funds consists of the construction of the first mile and half of a proposed ten mile, 36-stop streetcar project in the city's urban core. The city has completed a feasibility analysis and concept plan for the full streetcar alignment and is prepared to advance this segment through final design and into construction. The City of Charlotte's streetcar project will support the development of pedestrian-friendly urban neighborhoods with a mixture of land uses. It will offer people a choice in meeting their mobility needs and reduce dependence on overloaded and gridlocked roads, reducing future air and noise pollution. This project will also connect diverse neighborhoods with the downtown business center which will help to stimulate development along the ten mile route.

I encourage your favorable consideration of the grant application submitted by the City of Charlotte.

Sincerely,

Melvin L. Watt

MLW/edo

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

2304 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3312
(202) 225-1510
FAX: (202) 225-1512
nc12.public@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/watt>

1230 WEST MOREHEAD STREET
SUITE 306
CHARLOTTE, NC 28208-5214
(704) 344-9950
FAX: (704) 344-9971

301 SOUTH GREENE STREET
SUITE 210
GREENSBORO, NC 27401
(336) 275-9950
FAX: (336) 379-9951