

Resolution No. 2003-03-004R

Resolution of support of the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District's continued exploration of the benefits of a fixed-guideway or tram system for the community and the completion of an Alternative Analysis Study.

WHEREAS, the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District is currently conducting an Alternatives Analysis Study to consider the feasibility of a fixed-guideway or tram system to enhance the current transit system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is currently participating on the Mass Transit District Fixed Guideway Technical Committee regarding the study and has participated in the exploration of fixed-guideway systems in other communities; and

WHEREAS, the MTD has identified three primary goals of the Alternative Analysis Study which are improving the cost efficiency of the transit system, increasing transit usage, and meeting the redevelopment goals of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Alternative Analysis Study will further explore the feasibility of a fixed-guideway system and identify a locally preferred alternative for the community which could include trams, bus rapid transit, or an enhanced conventional bus system; and

WHEREAS, a fixed-guideway system could have significant benefits for the residents of the City of Urbana by offering increased mobility and fostering redevelopment of the downtown; and

WHEREAS, the consideration of an alternative transit system connecting downtown to campus was a component of the Downtown Strategic Plan adopted in February 2002; and

WHEREAS, public transportation is a vital contributing factor for the health of the community because it provides mobility for all segments of the population and reduces dependency on the automobile; and

WHEREAS, an improved public transit system is a benefit to all community members including transit riders, motorists, cyclists and walkers by diversifying transit options, easing congestion on city roadways, and making streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians;

WHEREAS, public transportation, and fixed-guideway systems, can be a vital economic development tool by fostering urban revitalization which can provide numerous benefits such as the establishment of new businesses, industry and housing, job creation and improved access to employment centers; and

WHEREAS, public transportation, and fixed-guideway systems, offer mobility for disadvantaged residents and support self-sufficiency especially trams that feature "zero step" access; and

WHEREAS, public transit, specifically electric powered trams, offers substantial environmental benefits such as cleaner air and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Urbana; support the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District's continued exploration of these systems and the completion of the Alternatives Analysis Study which will further identify the costs and benefits of fixed-guideway system for the community. We encourage the MTD and the committee to investigate every possible financing option to ensure project costs will not create an undue financial burden on our community and to maximize partnerships between local, state, and federal government agencies, the University of Illinois, and other potential local private partners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, the City of Champaign and the University of Illinois.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of March, 2003

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of March, 2003

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor