

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed before a local state or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2163 (Blumenauer), the Fast Starts Act of 2009, authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to state and local government authorities for eligible new fixed guideway streetcar capital projects that are electricity- and rail-based; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2164 (Blumenauer), the Federal Streetcar Revitalization Act of 2009, revises the selection criteria for new fixed guideway streetcar capital projects to require that a project be justified based on a review of its effect on local economic development and land use (as under current law), as well as its potential to alter travel patterns and reduce greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS, modern streetcar systems are innovative, quiet, environmentally-friendly transportation circulation systems which run on a fixed guideway in the line of and at the speed of other traffic, and streetcar systems significantly enhance the pedestrian experience, reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, encourage walking; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles is among numerous cities in the nation preparing to build streetcar systems, which are troubled by the current federal process which is considered overly cumbersome, time-consuming, with rules and processes which are not streetcar-friendly, and this serves as a strong deterrent to the local effort to seek and pursue federal grants and funding, therefore increasing the burden on local government and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships have been the basis for the creation of initial streetcar lines in other west coast cities, and Downtown L.A. has formed Los Angeles Streetcar Inc. to promote a Benefit Assessment District to fund a significant portion of the costs of a Downtown Los Angeles Streetcar which is intended to be operational by 2014; and

WHEREAS, the proposed H.R. 2163 and H.R. 2164 bills would enhance and support the ability of the Downtown Los Angeles Streetcar project and others like it across the country to access and utilize federal funding to accelerate these projects, enhance the feasibility of the public-private initiatives, and allow projects to meet swift and reasonable timelines for implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles, hereby includes in its 2009-2010 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of H.R. 2163 (Blumenauer), the Fast Starts Act of 2009, that would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for certain streetcar projects and H.R. 2164 (Blumenauer) that would modify the selection criteria for new capital projects.

PRESENTED BY


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY

