

June 3, 2011

James Boyd
Vice Chairman and Presiding Member
Transportation Committee
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 10-ALT-1 - 2011-2012 Investment Plan
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET

10-ALT-01

DATE June 03 2011

RECD. June 03 2011

SUBJECT: Fresno Council of Governments Request for Consideration of Utilizing Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Technology Grant Funding for Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) Demonstration Project

Dear Vice Chairman Boyd:

Fresno County's Measure "C" Program (½ percent sales tax collected for transportation purposes) sets aside approximately \$36 million for its New Technology Program. These funds are under consideration by the region to be potentially used to develop a Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) demonstration project here in Fresno County. Our hope is that these funds, can be leveraged with other sources of state grant funding such as those identified in the California Energy Commission's Investment Plan for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program.

From our perspective, there are potentially great benefits to utilizing our New Technology funds in this manner for both the Fresno region and the State of California. Currently, Fresno is the only jurisdiction in the United States with funds set aside to develop PRT. Due to this circumstance, it is in a unique position to assert technological leadership for the United States in the emerging global CleanTech industry. Going further, a PRT demonstration program would clearly serve the goals of the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program as well as the broader mandates of AB 32's energy efficiency and GHG reduction goals, and SB 375's land use and transportation planning requirements. We believe that demonstration of PRT's viability is vital to identifying new approaches that help solve the debilitating congestion that grips many of California's cities.

The availability of both local and state funds for PRT demonstration is a historic opportunity to create an operational PRT system to evaluate performance capabilities, costs associated with PRT, as well as providing a regulatory and safety evaluation platform for government, industry, and universities. This approach is consistent with our overall regional strategy of leveraging public funds to create jobs by attracting critical private investment for high tech firms that manufacture and deploy. In the bigger picture, it is vital that the United States become competitive with the more highly developed PRT industry in Europe and Asia.

In closing, Fresno COG looks forward to working with the CEC in establishing technical protocols and implementation procedures for a PRT demonstration program in Fresno should the CEC move forward with support for such a program.

In closing, Fresno COG urges the CEC to consider this opportunity to work together to lay the groundwork for a greener, more sustainable public transportation system for California's 21st century economy. If you should have additional questions regarding our request, please feel free to call me at 559 233-4148 Ext. 204.

Sincerely,



Tony Boren, Executive Director
Fresno Council of Governments

City of Clovis
City of Coalinga
City of Firebaugh
City of Fowler
City of Fresno
City of Huron
City of Kerman
City of Kingsburg
City of Mendota
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Reedley
City of San Joaquin
City of Sanger
City of Selma
County of Fresno