

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: CAMPO Transit Working Group

FROM: Joseph Cantalupo, Executive Director

DATE: December 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Central Austin Circulator – Long Center Spur and East Riverside ABIA

CAMPO staff reviewed the City of Austin's proposal for Central Austin Circulator – Long Center Spur and East Riverside ABIA, dated November 2008, and offers the following for your consideration.

As with our review of the Green Line we focused on whether the proposal for the Central Austin Circulator met the two criteria outlined in the October 9, 2008 memorandum from Mayor Wynn. The first was to evaluate transit proposals against the elements of the Transit Working Group (TWG) Decision Tree to verify its completeness. The second was to evaluate the technical aspects of the proposal, assessing the overall quality of the data used, whether taken from existing regional data sets or developed solely for the proposal. Based on our review, CAMPO staff believes that the proposal is developed to a sufficient level of detail to warrant consideration and discussion by the TWG. In support of this recommendation, we offer the following for your consideration:

- The proposal is complete when reviewed against the Decision Tree and the attached spreadsheet summarizes how it addresses each element of the TWG Decision Tree.
- The technical assumptions and analyses contained in the proposal are based on currently available, generally accepted practices, and overall appear to be reasonable. While we expect many aspects of the proposal to be further developed and refined as it progresses through the planning, design and environmental phases, at this stages of its development the proposal does not appear to contain any fatal flaws or be counter to City of Austin and/or regional plans or programs.
- To develop the Central Austin Circulator proposal the City of Austin used the most current and readily available data, most of which was available from local sources. Uses of outside data were limited and used more for illustrative purposes. For example, the proposal references studies performed by the Victoria Transit Policy Institute are referenced to highlight the ability of urban rail systems to encourage Smart Growth in cities such as San Francisco and Portland.
- The Central Austin Circulator proposal is based on the need and desire for a circulator system that was first identified in the Capital Metro *All Systems Go Plan (2004)*. This lead to an Alternatives Analysis undertaken by the City of Austin that identified the type of system and network identified in the proposal.

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- The Central Austin Circulator proposal is reflective of and supports the principles of the CAMPO Mobility 2030 Plan and is consistent with the transportation and land use proposal represented by the CAMPO Regional Growth Concept, which is being considered for the CAMPO 2035 Plan.
- The daily ridership projection of 32,000 is appears to be reasonable given the areas the network is intended to serve. It is based on and consistent with the projected ridership of the initial phase of Capital Metro's Fixed Guideway System that was originally proposed and adopted as part of the CAMPO 2025 Transportation Plan.
- The methods used to estimate the reduction in VMT appear to be reasonable and are consistent with those methods used by Capital Metro in its Green Line proposal currently under review by the TWG.
- The projected ability of the Central Austin Circulator to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the corridor and our region is consistent with the VMT results of the CAMPO travel demand model and is consistent with our adopted environmental policies.
- The Central Austin Circulator proposal addresses serving the low to moderate income population located along the corridor, which complies with and supports CAMPO's adopted social and economic policies.

If CAMPO staff can provide more information or if there is any aspect of the Green Line proposal we can further explore for you, please let me know. Also, as with the Green Line proposal, CAMPO staff will be prepared to answer questions about potential incorporation of this project into the regional transportation planning and programming processes before the TWG when it convenes. Thank you.

cc: Mr. Marc A. Ott, City of Austin
Mr. Robert Spillar, City of Austin
Ms. Maureen McCoy, CAMPO
Mr. Daniel Yang, CAMPO
Mr. Michael Dutton, CAMPO
Mr. John Kennedy, CAMPO