



January 18, 2008

Chairman Ben Hueso
Land Use and Housing Committee
c/o Alonso Gonzalez
Council Committee Consultant
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Subject: C Street Corridor Master Plan

Dear Chairman Hueso and Committee Members:

Our Council appreciates your attention and consideration of these comments on this important plan to activate the currently under-utilized C-Street Corridor. We believe the progress and compromises we have seen in subsequent meetings made between the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) and the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) are have become less productive in the effort to turn this corridor into a place we can be proud of. Our Council is not pleased with the continued insistence of MTA to close street connectivity in our regional urban core to simply accommodate for longer Light-Rail Trains (LRT).

The San Diego Council of Design Professionals (CDP) has reviewed the recently proposed C-Street Plan and based on these studies, and our collective experience with respect to major regional urban planning issues, the CDP wishes again to offer the following recommendations in support of the Technical and Advisory Committees:

* The entire pedestrian environment and quality of downtown is denigrated with concept of closing street traffic across C Street in our Central Business District.

This concept complicates the mobility efficiency of our entire downtown.

- * Please again study the failure of the LRT in downtown Sacramento by limiting vehicle crossings in their downtown, adjacent to their Business District (their retail is under-performing in similar ways to our C Street).
- * Reduction of lanes and lane width will be an impediment to 6th and 7th Avenue traffic as well business in the Downtown Financial Core that discourages new commerce to Centre City.
- * Continue to research the market and/or lobby for shorter transit cars or a different type of transit car (street cars for example).
- * Operate a two car trolley through Downtown on a shorter headway than a three car alignment to avoid a major urban design compromise.
- * Address the City Hall redevelopment and the C-Street Corridor alignment
- * Move the project forward

In order to move the project forward, we support to continue elevating the discussions with MTS the station/trolley length issue to the overall public. The main issue appears to be trying to fit/accommodate three low -floor vehicles at 275 feet on a 200 feet wide block (round peg in a square hole). There are many significant physical challenges that need to be addressed if we are to only pursue three low-floor vehicles at 275 feet. The public must weigh in on this important decision, with the mayor and city council and CCDC board.

We look forward to your further study and recommendations. Our Council is willing to host a C-Street Corridor Study workshop. The CDP would appreciate the opportunity to participate actively in this critically important C-Street Corridor Master Plan process.

Mr. Sachin Kalbag
January 14, 2008
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SAN DIEGO COUNCIL OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

Sincerely,



MICHAEL STEPLER

(For) Nick DeLorenzo



Howard Blackson, III

Hb3

cc: Nancy Graham, President, CCDC
Scott Peters, President, San Diego City Council
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

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