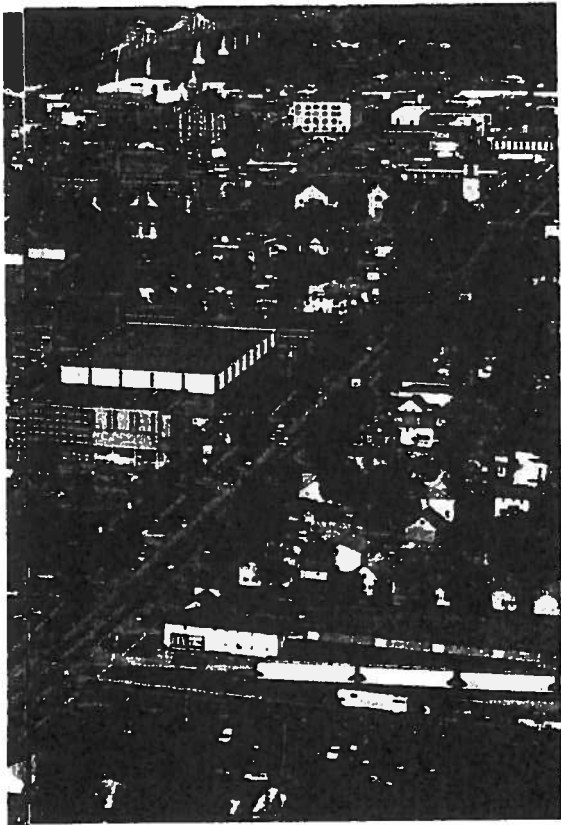


OPPORTUNITY



Embracing technology and innovation has long been the catalyst for economic growth in Minnesota. As the state explores ways to improve employment rates, build an advanced transportation system for the next generation, and meet the growing demand for green infrastructure, now is the time for Minnesota to once again be the leader—not the laggard—in engineering ingenuity. Now is the time for Minnesota to back Personal Rapid Transit.

Efficient, sophisticated, and green, Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is the future of public transportation, and it is only a matter of finding model communities in which to study PRT's operations before it can be successfully launched nationwide and worldwide. The City of Winona, with an appropriate population and geographic size, university resources, and local manufacturers, offers the perfect research and development conditions for bringing this project to the market. Winona is small enough to experiment, yet large enough to produce meaningful results.

With widespread support from elected officials, business and community leaders, and other stakeholders, Winona is prepared to host and be the research center for a fully functional PRT system. In the following pages, we invite you to learn more about the future of PRT, Winona's unique advantages in hosting a live PRT lab, and how Minnesota stands to benefit from the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jerry Miller
Mayor of Winona



2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, California 93721

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January 29, 2010

Honorable Jerry Miller, Mayor
City of Winona
207 Lafayette Street - 3rd Floor
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Subject: Council of Fresno County Governments' Letter of Support for Winona's Proposed Development of Personal Rapid Transit System and Research Center

Dear Mayor Miller:

At its January 28, 2010 Council of Fresno County Governments' Policy Board meeting, an action was taken by the Policy Board to support the City of Winona Minnesota's application for federal transportation grant funding for developing a Personal Rapid Transit System and Research Center.

As you may be aware, the voters of Fresno County have also developed an interest in new transportation technology and validated their support by identifying funding in a recent voter approved countywide ½ cent sales tax measure known as Measure "C". As part of the Measure "C" planning process, Fresno COG is currently conducting a comprehensive Public Transportation Infrastructure Study which is focused on identifying the long range public transportation system that will be required to move Fresno County's growing population in the coming years. As part of that process a Personal Rapid Transit Feasibility Study is being conducted.

It is our firm belief that given the technical, administrative and political challenges in developing a Personal Rapid Transit System, there would be much to be gained from each other as we move forward towards implementation. Any "best practice" insights and "lessons learned" through your planning process would certainly provide worthwhile benefit and synergy for our PRT planning efforts. Clearly, insight into these issues will require more than paper studies and will require hands on experience. We believe that your approach to developing a PRT Research Center has great merit and the potential for developing "hands on" knowledge with PRT. With that in mind, Fresno COG is very pleased to offer its support to your efforts to secure federal transportation funding for your endeavor.

In closing, if you should have any questions regarding our Letter of Support please feel to call our Executive Director, Tony Boren at 559 233-4148 Ext. 204.

Sincerely,

TRINIDAD M. RODRIGUEZ, Chairman
Council of Fresno County Governments

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County