



April 11th, 2008

Mayor Will Wynn
Austin City Council Members

Mayor Wynn and Council Members:

At the March 28th, 2008 Alliance for Public Transportation (APT) Board of Directors' meeting, the Board unanimously passed a motion calling for a letter be sent to the Austin City Council regarding the "City of Austin Request for Proposal for the Purchase and Redevelopment of the Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant and Austin Energy Control Center" that has been released to potential redevelopment teams.

The Alliance for Public Transportation is concerned with the inclusion of the Austin Energy Control Center (ECC) Property in the RFP, and specifically that there are no considerations given to a future transit rail corridor **on or across** the ECC Property. In our opinion, this is an important and large omission, given that both the CAMPO Transit Working Group and the Downtown Plan Consultant (ROMA Design Group) are in the midst of deciding rail technology and routes for both Austin and the region; and by extension Downtown Austin. The full redevelopment of the ECC Property, with no consideration of a future rail corridor on or across it, would preclude certain rail technologies and routes that have not been decided yet, and won't be decided on for a number of months or even years.

The Alliance for Public Transportation is in the process of requesting a meeting with City of Austin and Capital Metro Staff to discuss our concerns. But Proposals are due from interested development teams, in response to the RFP, on April 30th. For this reason we would ask that City Council direct City Staff to amend the RFP (by formal Addendum to the RFP) to revise Section 4., Subsection 4.3 "Transit Potential" to read:

4.3 Transit Potential: Future transit options may include ultra-light, light, or commuter rail along the extension of 3rd Street, or on or across the ECC Property (with the final route still to be determined). Proposers should consider this opportunity in the extension of 3rd Street, and will be required to consider a dedicated rail corridor across the ECC Property.

We think this would be a prudent amendment of the RFP, allowing the CAMPO Transit Working Group and the Downtown Plan Consultant to achieve their charges and tasks without precluding some of the very decisions they may yet reach; and that rail in 3rd Street may be precluded by existing utilities in the 3rd Street right-of-way.

Respectfully,

Andrew Clements (for the Board)
Secretary and Board Member
Alliance for Public Transportation

cc: APT Board of Directors