



SAN
FRANCISCO
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

May 4th, 2017

Mr. Chris Longley, P.E.
Central Federal Lands Access Program Manager
FHWA-Central Federal Lands
12300 W. Dakota Ave, Suite 380
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Longley,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,500 local businesses and their over 250,000 employees, support the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA's) application for Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds to extend historic streetcar service to the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SFMNHP) and the Fort Mason unit of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA).

The grant application you are considering would improve access to the GGNRA and SFMNHP for all prospective users, but especially for those who are not automobile users. Parking is at a premium in the park vicinity, and there is no room or ability to add more. The historic streetcars on the E and F lines currently terminate short of the parks, and riders usually head the other direction, back toward the main part of Fisherman's Wharf.

Extending the streetcar tracks along Beach Street, as studied and approved in the Environmental Impact Report for the project, will bring riders directly to the attractions of the parks. It will be especially helpful to non-ambulatory people and those less able to walk long distances, particularly many seniors. This extension would leverage the existing, very popular historic streetcar lines to make myriad park programs more accessible to underserved populations and those dependent on public transit in general.

Additionally, the great attractiveness of the colorful historic streetcar fleet has proven abilities to draw people who usually drive out of their cars and onto this ride. This is especially true of families in the Bay Area, who can take BART or Caltrain, our two regional rail systems, and connect directly to the historic streetcars. This grant would help bring them all the way to Fort Mason, the GGNRA and to the SFMNHP.

Because the existing streetcars already connect several National Historic Landmark Districts and sites, as well as iconic pieces of San Francisco's heritage, the popular slogan for the streetcars is "Ride History to See History." This grant would extend the benefit of these rider-magnet vintage vehicles to the National Park Service unit we are proud to partner with.

We urge you to approve this grant application.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy