



CITY OF ORLANDO

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OFFICE OF

BUDDY DYER

MAYOR

February 13, 2004

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: TEA-21 Transportation Reauthorization Request for Church Street in Downtown Orlando
Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria Form

Dear Congresswoman Brown:

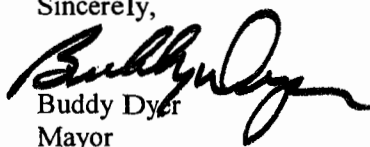
I am writing to you to urge your support of the reconstruction of Church Street in Downtown Orlando. This project is considered by the City of Orlando as critical to the economic revitalization of the Parramore District in Downtown Orlando. This \$16 Million project is a 1.1-mile segment of an urban two-lane downtown collector street that connects downtown neighborhoods to the city core business and entertainment district. Church Street immediately east of this project area is on the designated Light Rail Transit route of the Draft EIS for the North-South Light Rail Corridor Project.

This predominantly minority neighborhood did not enjoy the renaissance experienced by the other downtown neighborhoods in the past two decades. It has struggled with intrusion of non-residential uses, low incomes, high crime rates, and very low home ownership. The City is working on special zoning regulation, housing and economic development efforts, and transportation improvements to address these problems holistically. Federal funding assistance will enable this project to proceed at an earlier date than is otherwise possible.

The City of Orlando has committed to design, right of way and reconstruction of Church Street if this project is awarded Federal funds. Planned as well as committed improvements to the east will connect to this roadway segment within the Parramore District. Planned improvements include complete rebuilding of the utilities infrastructure including undergrounding of electrical distribution lines, streetscape and landscape improvements compatible with the downtown environment, updating signalization including installation of mast arms, wide sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities that conform to the Downtown Development Board streetscape guidelines, bus transit bays, and other aesthetic and neighborhood infrastructure improvements.

The City of Orlando believes that if this application is successful, it will greatly enhance the opportunities to revitalize this street within the Parramore Heritage District and build on the investment in the retail and entertainment business district in downtown Orlando. Your support for this project is essential for the City of Orlando to continue planned improvements in the Church Street corridor. Please sponsor this TEA-21 Transportation Reauthorization Request for Church Street in Downtown Orlando.

Sincerely,


Buddy Dyer
Mayor

Est. Cost '05 - \$17.8 million

Attachment

c: Richard Levey, AICP, Chief Administrative Officer
✓ David L. Metzker, P.E., Director of Public Works
Dean J. Grandin, Jr., AICP, City Planning Division Director
Harold W. Barley, Executive Director, METROPLAN ORLANDO
Jim Kimbler, AICP, Transportation Planning Chief Planner

**TRANSPORTATION PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT**

REMEMBER TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE FILLED OUT THE ENTIRE QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. **Name and Congressional District of the primary Member of Congress sponsoring the project.**
Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Florida – District Three (3)

2. **Other members supporting the project.**

3. **If the project is a highway project, please identify the State or other qualified recipient responsible for carrying out the project.**

Church Street is a City of Orlando urban two-lane collector street. The City of Orlando is qualified and will commit to managing the project through the FDOT Local Agency Program process.

4. **If the project is a transit project, please identify the project sponsor (must be eligible recipient of Federal transit funds).**

The project is not a transit project.

5. **Please categorize the project. (Check one)**

Highway or bridge _____	Intermodal facility (passenger) _____
Transit rail new start _____	Intermodal facility (freight) _____
Bus, bus equipment, or bus facility _____	Bicycle and Pedestrian _____
Other (please identify) <u> X </u> _____	

This project is an improvement to a City of Orlando street.

6. **Is the project eligible for the use of Federal-aid highway or transit funds under Title 23 or Title 49 United State Code?**

This project is eligible for the use of Federal-aid highway funds under Title 23 of the United States Code, but is not eligible for the use of Title 49 funds.

7. **If the project is a highway or bridge project, is it on the National Highway System?**

Church Street is not on the National Highway System.

8. **Briefly describe the total project.**

This revitalization project includes design, right of way and reconstruction of a portion of a City of Orlando street. Planned as well as committed improvements to the east will connect to this roadway segment within the Parramore Heritage District. Planned improvements include complete rebuilding of the utilities infrastructure including undergrounding of electrical distribution lines, streetscape and landscape improvements compatible with the downtown environment, updating signalization including installation of mast arms, wide sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities that conform to the downtown Development Board streetscape guidelines, bus transit bays, and other aesthetic and neighborhood infrastructure improvements.

- a. *Is it part of a larger system of projects?*

The project is a 1.1-mile segment of a downtown collector street that connects downtown neighborhoods to the city core business and entertainment district. Church Street east of Division Avenue, immediately east of this project area, is on the designated Light Rail Transit route of the Draft EIS for the North-South Light Rail Corridor Project.

- b. *What is the total estimated cost of the project?*
The total estimated cost of the project is \$16,000,000 as follows: Design costs = \$1.5 Million; Right of Way = \$3.5 Million; Construction = \$11 million.
9. **Please identify the specific segment for which project funding is being sought, including terminus points.**
The specific segment for which funding is being sought is from S. Terry Avenue to S. Tampa Avenue on Church Street in Downtown Orlando.
10. **What dollar amount are you requesting in the authorization for this project or segment of a project?**
The City of Orlando is seeking funding in the amount \$16 Million for the project.
11. **Project Schedule**
- a. *What is the proposed schedule and status of work on the project?*
No project phases are currently funded. Design is proposed to begin in January 2005 and the schedule anticipates completion of construction by June 2006.
- b. *What is the current state of development of the project? (If the project is a transit new start, please specify whether the project is in alternative analysis, preliminary engineering, final design, has been issued a record of decision, under environmental review, or already has a current full funding grant agreement).*
The project currently has no funded phases.
- c. *Will the requested funding for the project be obligated within the next six years?*
The requested funding will be obligated within six years following an appropriation.
12. **Project Plan**
- a. *Is the project part of the State's long-range plan?*
No, however the project is consistent with the Florida Transportation Plan, the Long Range Plan of the Florida Department of Transportation.
- b. *Is the project included in the metropolitan and/or State Transportation Improvement Program (s)?*
The project is not included in the MetroPlan 2020 Orlando Urban Area Transportation System Plan since the project improvement focuses on a City collector roadway and is not required to be a part of the Metropolitan and/or State Transportation Improvement Program
13. **Is the project considered by the State and /or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs? Please provide a letter of support from these officials, and if you cannot, explain why not.**
The project is not included in the MetroPlan Orlando Long Range Plan, however Federal funding assistance will enable the enhancements to Church Street to proceed at an earlier date than the project could otherwise proceed. The City of Orlando has committed to designing, acquiring right of way, and constructing the improvements if this project is awarded Federal funds. The City of Orlando believes that if this application is successful, it will greatly enhance the opportunities to revitalize this street within the Parramore Heritage District and build on the investment in the retail and entertainment business district in downtown Orlando..
14. **Does the project have national or regional significance? Describe.**
The Parramore Heritage District, which includes the Church Street corridor, has a rich national history that includes popular African-American performers including Count Basie,

Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Dinah Washington, Lionel Hampton, Bo Diddley, B.B. King and Ray Charles.

This predominantly minority neighborhood did not enjoy the renaissance experienced by the other downtown neighborhoods in the past two decades. It has struggled with intrusion of non-residential uses, low incomes, high crime rates, and very low home ownership. The City is working on special zoning regulation, housing and economic development efforts, and transportation improvements to address these problems holistically.

15. **Has the proposed project encountered, or is it likely to encounter, any significant opposition or other obstacle based on environmental or other types of concerns? If yes, please describe.**

This project is unlikely to encounter any significant opposition based on any concerns, including environmental.

16. **Describe the economic, environmental, congestion mitigation, and safety benefits associated with completion of the project.**

The economic, environmental, congestion mitigation, and safety benefits associated with this project include:

1. From an *economic* benefit standpoint, funding of this request will help sustain and foster continued economic development of the Parramore heritage District.
2. This project will help to maintain and protect the *environment*. The City of Orlando is one of only five communities in Florida to receive the Sustainable Communities designation from the Department of Community Affairs. Key components of sustainable communities include a commitment to the environment, mixture of land uses and appropriate roadway circulation guidelines and standards. The most important environmental protection feature of this project will be improvements to an aging drainage system.
3. *Congestion mitigation* needs will be addressed through enhanced signalization and improved pedestrian crosswalks. Bicycling will be encouraged by the placement of bicycle parking racks within the project area.
4. The proposed project will improve *safety* and will be consistent with multi-modal efforts in downtown. The City of Orlando is renowned for its commitment to multi-modalism and roadway design that promotes safety for all modes. This project includes numerous transportation benefits to improve intermodalism and safety, including pedestrian enhancements and enhanced signalization.

17. **Has the project already received funding through the State's federal-aid highway or transit formula apportionments or from other Federal, State, local, or private funds? If yes, how much and from what source?**

The project has not received Federal-Aid Highway Funds.

18. **Has the project received funding in a previous authorization act?**

The project has not received funding in a previous authorization act.

19. **If the project has received funding in a previous authorization act, please city the act(s) and amount(s).**

Not Applicable.

20. **Has the project received funding in a previous appropriation act?**

The project has not received funding in a previous appropriations act.

21. **If the project has received funding in a previous appropriation act, please cite the act(s) and amount(s).**

Not Applicable.

