



WESTMINSTER

September 28, 2007

Northwest Rail Corridor Project Team
c/o Julie McKay
CDR Associates
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City of Westminster
Office of the
Mayor

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Dear Project Team Members:

RE : City of Westminster's Position on Northwest Rail Technology

I am writing on behalf of the Westminster City Council to express our strong support for Diesel Multiple Units (DMU) as the preferred technology for the commuter rail line on the Northwest Rail Corridor.

The reasons for our position are as follows:

- Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) are generally considered to emit less air pollution, but such a conclusion ignores emissions that are discharged into the air at the source of electricity generation. Moreover, use of the diesel technology, at this point, will allow for greater flexibility in the future when alternative fuel technologies become available.
- The overhead web of electric lines needed to power EMUs will be visually intrusive in neighborhoods and create an eyesore that is not present with DMUs.
- The implementation of DMU technology in the Northwest Rail corridor would have a much lower initial capital cost. Even before the railroad-mandated bridge modifications are taken into account, EMU capital costs are estimated at \$90 million more than DMU capital costs than the EMU technology. When the additional Burlington Northern requirements are considered, the cost of EMU in the Northwest Corridor is well beyond the voter-authorized funding for this project.

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There are a number of issues that will, of course, need to be addressed regardless of the technology that is used. These include train vibration and noise and air quality adjacent to the rail stations along with other issues that will likely develop during the course of a project of this magnitude. However, we are confident that these concerns can and will be satisfactorily addressed through a strong partnership between RTD and its consultants and the cities and counties along the corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. McNally". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and "M".

Nancy McNally, Mayor