

Senate Bill 516

By: Senators Zamarripa of the 36th, Williams of the 19th, Johnson of the 1st, Brown of the 26th and Harbison of the 15th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the State Road and Tollway Authority, so as to provide that the authority shall
3 implement a program to provide for the development and expansion of streetcar
4 transportation and attendant economic and community development opportunities; to provide
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia Community Streetcar
9 Development and Revitalization Act."

10 **SECTION 2.**

11 Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
12 State Road and Tollway Authority, is amended by adding a new Code Section 32-10-76 to
13 read as follows:

14 "32-10-76.

15 (a) The authority shall establish and implement a five-year grant program to provide
16 assistance to local governmental authorities as well as a public-private project initiative for
17 the capital, technical, and startup costs of development and expansion of streetcar
18 transportation and attendant economic and community development opportunities. The
19 five-year grant program shall begin when funding becomes available for such purposes.
20 The five-year grant program may be renewed at the end of each five-year period, consistent
21 with the provisions of this Code section.

22 (b) The authority will work closely with the formation of a pilot program and will provide
23 a state level flow through point for any available federal funding or other forms of financial
24 and development sources and assistance for local, regional, and public-private streetcar
25 projects.

1 (c) The authority may consider the following factors in its selection of projects that will
2 be implemented by this pilot program:

3 (1) The project is ripe for development, construction, and operation;

4 (2) The project application demonstrates strong local and private sector financial
5 participation in the project;

6 (3) The project will foster redevelopment opportunities adjacent to the streetcar line for
7 which assistance is being sought;

8 (4) The project requires the financial participation of the private owners of real property
9 abutting the streetcar line, with the exception of owner occupied residential properties,
10 for some of the capital costs of the project;

11 (5) The project application demonstrates that development or redevelopment agreements
12 are in place with respect to the project and land planning policies complimentary to the
13 project have been adopted for land in close proximity to the streetcar line, including the
14 availability of property zoned to accommodate mixed use development adjacent to the
15 streetcar line;

16 (6) The project application demonstrates either how redeveloping or new neighborhoods
17 on vacant or underutilized land will be connected by the project to each other or to major
18 attractors in the central city where the project will be carried out or how circulator or
19 connector lines under the project will connect developed neighborhoods with one another
20 or with the business district in the central city;

21 (7) The project has demonstrated desirable levels of local financial or linking resources
22 commitment, or both;

23 (8) The project may include, and is encouraged to include, a public-private project
24 initiative and organizational structure or sponsor; and

25 (9) The authority will coordinate with all appropriate metropolitan, regional, and
26 municipal planning and development agencies where projects may be pursued and will
27 coordinate with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority and appropriate local
28 transit agencies in the development, funding, and implementation of various streetcar
29 projects.

30 (d) In order to receive grant assistance under this Code section, a sponsor of a project must
31 submit to the authority an application that includes a detailed operating plan for the
32 streetcar line for which such assistance is being sought, including the frequency of service,
33 hours of operation, stop locations, and demonstration of the financial capacity of the
34 sponsor to operate the streetcar line.

35 (e) A project for which grant assistance may be provided under this Code section may
36 include streetscaping, signalization modifications, and other modifications to the road

1 system or other public rights of way on which the project is to be carried out; acquisition
2 of streetcars; and project construction, design, and engineering.

3 (f) As used in this Code section, the terms:

4 (1) 'Local government authority' and 'state' have the same meanings as under Section
5 5302 of Title 49 of the United States Code.

6 (2) 'Public-private project initiative' means a local or regional streetcar project which is
7 proposed and advanced by a cooperative entity or sponsor that involves a combined
8 public and private sector financing and development structure which includes not for
9 profit entities.

10 (3) 'Streetcar' includes, but is not limited to, a rail transit vehicle, including a modern,
11 antique, or reproduction vehicle, that is designed to fit the scale and traffic patterns of
12 neighborhoods through which it travels, is powered by electricity, and operates at lower
13 speeds generally in existing rights of way through mixed traffic, with frequent stops."

14 **SECTION 3.**

15 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.