



**DONNA CAMPBELL, M.D.**  
TEXAS STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 25

For Immediate Release:  
Friday, October 18, 2013

Contact: Jon Oliver  
512-463-0125

**Sen. Campbell Opposes New Streetcar Bonds in Letter to VIA**

AUSTIN-- Prior to last night's vote, State Senator Donna Campbell sent a letter to the VIA Board of Trustees stating her opposition to two major items VIA lists as integral parts of the downtown streetcar project, the Westside Multimodal Transit Center and the Robert Thompson Transit Center. Senator Campbell believes, in accordance with the will of the voters, that these bonds should not be funded with ATD money.

The full text of the letter is included below.

October 17, 2013

Dear Mr. Muñoz and VIA Board of Trustees:

At the request of constituents, I am writing to you today to strongly consider rejecting the use of the bonds for the purpose of allocating the money for use on streetcars in San Antonio. Sen. Wentworth previously requested a legal opinion from Attorney General Abbott on the use of Advanced Transportation District (ATD) sales taxes to fund VIA Metropolitan Transit's downtown streetcar project.

In his responding September 2012 opinion (attached and available at <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/opinions/opinions/50abbott/op/2012/htm/ga0968.htm>), the AG recognized VIA may well have entered into a "contract with the voters" not to use ATD funds to build this rail project based on VIA's pre-election assurances to the voters who approved the levy of this sales tax in 2004. VIA seemingly concurred that the use of these funds directly for the streetcar was a violation of this "contract with the voters," and thus executed a swap of funds with TxDOT to avoid using ATD dollars on the streetcar.

I take issue with the use of funds in ways the voters clearly did not intend and, as such, I am strongly opposed to their approval and use for the streetcar project. Now, the attempt to use ATD sales taxes and fare box revenues to back the public issuance of revenue bonds to fund its streetcar project, among others, is misleading and simply wrong.

The two major items VIA lists are integral parts of the streetcar project, namely, the Westside Multimodal Transit Center and the Robert Thompson Transit Center, both streetcar terminal and transit stations, which should not be funded with ATD funds.

Should you need to contact me to further discuss this issue, you may reach me at my office at (512) 463-0125. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Campbell M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Senator Donna Campbell, M.D.  
Senate District 25

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*Senator Donna Campbell is a practicing emergency room physician representing Senate District 25, which stretches from San Antonio to Austin. She sits on the Senate Transportation Committee and the Select Committee on Transportation Funding.*