



Regional Transit Authority
2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119-6301

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www.norta.com

RESOLUTION NO. 24-008

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ORLEANS

**AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION
FOR FY 2024 ALL STATIONS ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM**

Introduced by Commissioner Walton
seconded by Commissioner Neal.

WHEREAS, RTA operates four streetcar lines. Since 1835, the St Charles streetcar is the oldest continuously operated urban railway in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while there have been several improvements and changes to the line over the decades, the vehicles are generally of the original 1920's vintage, and the stops and route have not changed since 1973; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, in accordance with a 2017 consent decree, 4 heritage-style streetcars with wheelchair accessible lifts were repainted to match the vintage St Charles cars and 6 of the 54 total stops along the route were adapted to be compliant with 1990 American with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

WHEREAS, these 54 stops are spread out over a total route of 6.5 miles from Downtown to Uptown, with an average spacing of 645 ft per stop – or about 2 blocks, and

WHEREAS, RTA is looking to develop a fully accessible system, regardless of service type and history; and

WHEREAS, the staff proposes to design and construct improvements to the transit stops as part of the FTA's All Stations Accessibility Program to develop a program of improvements to have **all** stops and immediately connecting infrastructure fully accessible for the thousands of residents and visitors that use this vital and scenic service; and

WHEREAS, this project will include developing stop designs that meet both accessibility needs, beyond ADA, and fit the iconic historic context; and



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WHEREAS, the study will also evaluate possible stop consolidation, to improve travel speed and reduce total program costs; and

WHEREAS, the RTA will work alongside the City of New Orleans to ensure ADA accessibility of the infrastructure around the transit stops; and

WHEREAS, the RTA will be responsible for the local match of \$1,400,000. The federal obligation is expected to be \$5,600,000.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) that the Chairman of the Board, or his designee, to submit an application for grant funding for the planning of accessible stations on eligible legacy rail corridors.

THE FOREGOING WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:	<u>8</u>
NAYS:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>0</u>

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED ON THE TH OF JANUARY 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Raymond, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

**MARK RAYMOND JR
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**