



CITY OF ATLANTA

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The Honorable Joe Biden
Vice President of the United States
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Vice President Biden:

I want to first thank you again for leading a delegation to assess the damage to the Atlanta region from the recent floods. The clean-up and rebuilding efforts are well underway, and support from the Federal government will obviously play a critical role in returning the region to its former condition.

The purpose of this letter, however, is to amplify on the comments I made to you at our meeting in your office in September and to give you a sense of what our priorities are with regard to the funds being made available to cities through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As you mentioned, it is important for your office to understand what the priorities of the mayors are over the next year since we are on the front line in the effort to reduce the impact of the recession on our urban economies.

The City has three critical strategic goals that we hope ARRA funding will help us achieve: to improve public safety and reduce crime; to improve connectivity in downtown Atlanta and accelerate economic development in that area; and, to reduce the city's carbon footprint by improving the energy efficiency of city operations. We have applied for funds in three areas and I want to make sure you and your office are aware of these efforts:

- Wireless Public Safety Surveillance System: The City has requested \$13.7 million through the *NTIA Broadband Technology Program* to install a Wireless Public Safety Surveillance System. This system will provide video surveillance coverage of over 80 square miles of the City and we estimate that these cameras will likely reduce crime by 10% in those areas. Targeting crime in economically-depressed areas, this program will bring stability and growth to underserved areas throughout Atlanta. The City also expects to add 69 jobs to maintain and support the surveillance system at its E911 center when the project is completed in November of 2011.
- Peachtree Streetcar: The City is applying for a \$298 million grant through the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)* program offered through the Department of Transportation. Working closely with Neighborhood Improvement Districts and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), the City has developed a plan to build a 9.7-track-mile modern streetcar system on Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta. By enhancing travel options and increasing urban mobility, the streetcar project is also expected to generate momentum in economic development and job creation along the routes. In addition to the 40 long-term jobs directly related to the streetcar's operation and maintenance, the project will bring new corridor development and create 17,557 jobs in the broader Atlanta region between 2012 and 2032.

- Energy Efficiency Investments: The City has proposed two projects aimed at providing alternative energy sources. Upon completion by end of 2010, the RM Clayton Wastewater Treatment Plant Combined Heat and Power Project through *National Energy Technology Laboratory Industrial Energy Efficiency grant* is expected to replace 13 million kWh, 19% of current purchased electricity, with renewable energy from biogas generated at the same plant, reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by 17,000 metric tons. This project will create 61 jobs during the design and construction phase and five highly skilled positions operations and maintenance post completion. Also planned to complete by end of 2010, the Waste-to-Energy Plant Project through *Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Deployment grant*, is expected to treat 30,000 tons of food and yard waste annually, generating 8 million kWh and reducing greenhouse gas emission by 8,700 metric tons. This project will create 165 jobs during the design and construction phase and eight highly skilled positions for operations and maintenance post completion.

I would be happy to discuss the details of any these projects mentioned should you be interested. I appreciate any assistance you can provide the City of Atlanta as it pursues these extremely worthwhile projects.

Sincerely

Shirley Franklin