

YOUR COMMUTE

Fort Worth shouldn't nix streetcar funding outright, official says

Posted Tuesday, Jul. 20, 2010



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FORT WORTH -- A regional transportation planner suggested that Fort Worth take a breather while it figures out what to do with a federal grant intended to build a streetcar system.

City [Council members](#) had considered rejecting the \$25 million grant, saying that the city can't afford to provide the local match.

They're also concerned that accepting the grant for streetcars might jeopardize the chances of getting federal funding to fix the congested freight rail intersection known as Tower 55.

Michael Morris, transportation director of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, said though that the city ought to at least wait a few months.

The funding for Tower 55 and the streetcar grant come from separate sources, Morris said.

"What I would say is ... say, 'Thank you very much,' and accept the funding," he said.

Council members didn't take any action, but Morris' opinion carries weight. The North Central Texas Council of Governments is in charge of dividing state and federal transportation money among local cities.

Read more: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/07/20/2347831/fort-worth-streetcars.html#my-headlines-default#ixzz0uKWOMPcd>