

June 11, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202501199

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DOTE: Accept Streetcar VTICA Donation

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to accept a donation of up to \$975,000 from CincinnatiVTICA, LLC to support the operations and maintenance of the Cincinnati streetcar; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the donation into Streetcar Operations Fund revenue account no. 455x8645.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept a donation of up to \$975,000 from CincinnatiVTICA, LLC to support the operations and maintenance of the Cincinnati streetcar. The Director of Finance is authorized to deposit the donation into Streetcar Operations Fund revenue account no. 455x8645.

The City has identified non-City funding sources to supplement resources available for operating and maintaining the Streetcar. On November 19, 2014, the City Council passed a motion supporting the creation of a tax incentive contribution policy in certain neighborhoods that would incentivize applicants for real property tax abatements to enter into a Voluntary Tax Incentive Contribution Agreement (“VTICA”) to voluntarily contribute a portion of their abated tax savings to the Streetcar.

Previously, the City and the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) cooperated with Downtown Cincinnati Inc. (operating for this purpose as CincinnatiVTICA, LLC) to facilitate the collection of VTICA payments by CincinnatiVTICA and the application of such payments to the streetcar with those payments going directly to SORTA. With the termination of SORTA’s role in management and operation of the streetcar, this Emergency Ordinance will allow the City to receive donated funds that will cover the VTICA payments collected from July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2025.

Accepting funds to support Streetcar maintenance and operations is in accordance with the “Connect” goal to “[d]evelop an efficient multi-modal transportation system that supports neighborhood livability” and the strategies to “[e]xpand options for non-automotive travel” and “[p]lan, design, and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system” as described on pages 129-137 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need for the City to secure resources for the operation and maintenance of the streetcar system.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director



Attachment