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### **Hotel-Motel Tax Increase: Protest and Comment by APT**

The Oklahoma Alliance for Public Transportation (APT), a 501c3, **is in protest of the proposed hotel-motel tax increase unless part of it is designated to defray the high cost of operating the downtown Oklahoma City Streetcar.** We cannot make it to the May 14th City Council meeting but we would like our protest to be noted at the meeting entered into the record.

Public transportation is an expensive but very necessary public service, and not just for the disadvantaged but for all people.

Of the estimated \$11.6 million growth projected to be gained by this increase of the hotel motel tax each year, **we believe that at least 10% of that about \$1.2 million should be spent on the operational costs of Oklahoma City Streetcar. That way, the overall Embark bus transit budget can in effect grow by \$1.2m from here onward.**

The City's website states, "by law, this tax revenue cannot be spent for anything which is not related to the convention and tourism (visitor) development." Streetcar is very related to that development and to the tourism image of Oklahoma City, and if that relationship is a grey legal matter then the "law" should be easy enough to change to allow this new tax level to subsidize the downtown streetcar. A large portion of the streetcar ridership here are those people who do not work or live downtown, and are visitors or reside outside Oklahoma City or in other states. The law appears to be Sec. 52-81.1: ( <https://www.okc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1716/635902699874700000> ) and it designates much of the tax for improvement at the fairgrounds.

The expected growth in hotel-motel tax revenue should be ample within a few short years to help make up the \$1.2m to benefit the other budgetary aims of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Thank you,

Larry Hopper, Oklahoma City Resident  
Representing APT