

LETTER - BRT will unite Fresno

January 29, 2014

Last year, Faith in Community and the No Name Fellowship began a series entitled "Race In Fresno." It is designed to bring faith leaders and community stakeholders to the table to discuss how the issue of race and difference are too often forces of division in our city, rather than celebrations of diversity. Within this series, we seek to dismantle ungodly and incorrect perspectives that racism births in the soul of our city.

In this vain, statements made in a recent Central Valley Tea Party email regarding its opposition to Bus Rapid Transit for Fresno causes us great concern. According to CVTP, River Park will see an "increase in crime" if BRT is approved.

We believe this serves as a real window into the racial and cultural prejudice that keeps our city divided, dishonors our cultural diversity, and has historically manifested in harmful and inequitable public policy.

Contrary to that false racialized narrative, we believe that BRT will be the kind of public transportation that every Fresnan deserves. We believe in uniting the city — both through relationships and infrastructure — for the greater good of our city. We urge all seven city council members to join us.

Min. Bryson White

Faith in Community and Saint Rest Baptist Church

Rev. Phil Skei

No Name Fellowship and On Ramps Covenant Church

This letter was also signed by 28 other Fresno clergy and faith leaders.

Read more here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/01/29/3740352/brt-will-unite-fresno.html#storylink=cpy>