



March 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As Chair of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission, whose Council-appointed members advise our Council on environmental issues, I am writing in strong support for the City of Alexandria, Virginia's U.S. Department of Transportation's 2023 Low or No Emission Vehicle & Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant application. The proposed application uses a scalable approach for up to \$60 million for zero emissions buses, new electrical service and infrastructure, and workforce development.

DASH began in 1984 as a non-profit public service corporation wholly owned and operated by a Board appointed by the City. In 2021, it launched a fare-free program along with a new network and schedule with routes within walking distance of 82% of those residents in low-income neighborhoods.

In 2018, the City and DASH adopted a policy to move the DASH fleet to 100% Zero Emission buses by 2037, including the current fleet and any further expansion. Both the City and DASH are committed to this goal. Currently, DASH has 14 electric buses, is building charging infrastructure, has completed zero emissions feasibility/implementation studies, and secured \$9 million in funding for the planned expansion of our facility, which will provide space for 40 buses - all with charging capabilities.

The proposed project will also support the build-out of a new electrical service and infrastructure to provide sufficient electricity to the DASH facility for electric bus charging. This will bring a total of up to 12 megawatts of new energy service to the DASH facility needed to charge the full fleet of DASH zero emissions buses, one of largest planned developments in the region. The project will also fund the conversion of up to twenty-one (21) buses from conventional fossil fueled to Zero Emission.

This critical project will continue its conversion of fossil-fueled buses to electric ones improving air quality and combating the climate crisis, benefiting the region's communities, especially its most vulnerable. Thank you for your full consideration of the City of Alexandria's grant application.

Sincerely,

*Kathie Hoekstra*

Kathie Hoekstra,  
Chair of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission