

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 13 Council-appointed members advise our City 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 zero emissions buses, new electrical service and infrastructure, and workforce development.

In 2018 the city of Alexandria and DASH adopted a policy direction to move the DASH fleet to 100% Zero Emission buses by 2037. This will include the current fleet size and any further expansion of DASH's fleet. Both the city and DASH have shown a commitment to this goal. Currently to-date DASH has 14 battery electric buses, is building charging infrastructure, 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 support the build 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 Zero Emissions buses, one of the largest planned deployments in the region. The project also funds the conversion of up to twenty-one (21) total buses from conventional to Battery Electric/Zero Emissions.

This critical project will help electrify the DASH bus fleets and bus facilities, improving air quality and combat climate change, benefiting the region's communities, residents, and stakeholders, especially its most vulnerable. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Alexandria's grant application. Should you have questions, please contact me at [kathlynhoekstra@icloud.com](mailto:kathlynhoekstra@icloud.com).

Sincerely,