

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We respectfully request your strong consideration of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada's (RTC) application to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Low or No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Programs. The proposed project aligns with the Administration's goals of addressing the climate crisis and creating an equitable clean energy future, while also enhancing the safety and security of all roadway users in southern Nevada.

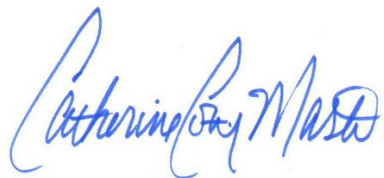
If funded, the RTC will procure three hydrogen fuel cell electric buses, solar lighting for 250 bus stops, and pedestrian detection and collision avoidance software for nearly half of the RTC's 800 transit buses. Enhanced lighting at transit stops will greatly improve the sense of security for passengers, allow riders to identify bus stops more easily, and assist drivers in recognizing individuals waiting for the bus. Obtaining three hydrogen fuel cell electric buses will allow the RTC to further implement their Zero Emissions Bus Rollout Plan, which calls for a fully electrified fleet by 2035. This is an important sustainability initiative for Nevada, where transportation accounts for more than 40% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Each year, RTC conducts customer satisfaction surveys and results show bus stop security is always a topic of concern. With more than 7,300 pedestrian fatalities nationwide, 2021 was a particularly deadly year for pedestrians. The on-board pedestrian detection and collision avoidance equipment will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders through real-time visual and audio alerts, providing operators with enough time to react and avoid collisions.

In southern Nevada, public transit is essential to providing access to employment, social services, healthcare, employment, and educational opportunities. Last year, the RTC served more than 35 million passenger trips across nearly 40 bus routes. As a trusted public agency, the RTC is a responsible partner leading the way in safety and fighting the climate crisis. Improved air quality through reduced emissions of harmful pollutants will provide considerable public health benefits for nearly 2.5 million residents and Southern Nevada's tens of millions of annual visitors.

We would be grateful for your full and fair consideration of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada's application for funding from the Federal Transit Low or No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Programs. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our offices should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives



Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives