April 4, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write today in my capacity as chair of the UC San Diego Academic Senate Committee on Campus and Community Environment, in support of the application for funds to help build an Electric Mobility Hub on our campus. A new UC San Diego trolley line has recently opened, running all the way from the US-Mexico border to our campus. This is a crucial means of integration between campus and the cross-border region in which we are situated, breaking down some of the barriers to access to our hospitals, research labs, teaching facilities, theaters, galleries, and eateries.

The trolley is a breakthrough in the provision of public transit options for people in the communities south of the university, but a new line does not function in isolation. It needs infrastructural support surrounding it, and the proposed Mobility Hub is part of a larger vision for sustainable and equitable transportation to, from and around UCSD. In the Committee on Campus and Community Environment, we are particularly supportive of the last mile and micro-mobility aspects of the project proposal. The trolley traces a single line, and so the provision of electric bike sharing, car-sharing, and scooter facilities will afford a much-needed web of connection from that line, out to the places where our staff, students and faculty live and work.

As an institution, we are expanding fast, bringing in more of the citizens of California to the proven engine of social mobility that is UCSD. Commuting is one of the places where the growing pains are felt most acutely, and we believe that public transit must be at the center of how we handle this period of expanded enrollments. In our capacity as Academic Senate representatives charged with advancing the well-being of all members of the campus community, we hope very much that you will look favorably upon this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jorge Cortes, Chair  
Committee on Campus and Community Environment