April 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) supports the application of the University of California San Diego (UC San Diego) to the United States Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) competitive grant program for the Voigt Transit Operations Center (VTOC).

UC San Diego is requesting up to $25 Million that would be matched with university funds to cover the balance of the project costs. The VTOC would provide approximately 1,000 parking spaces (of which 400 stalls would be for electrical vehicles (EV) with charging stations), fleet shuttle parking for EV buses with overhead charging infrastructure, the campus’s emergency operations center, and Transportation Services space to create a central operations and mobility hub on the campus. The VTOC is strategically located approximately one-third mile from two light rail transit stations and would be available for public use during non-peak periods for park-and-ride access to downtown San Diego and the Mexico border. Consolidating transportation needs in the proposed facility frees up valuable on-campus real estate for UC San Diego to continue to grow and expand its core activities, which spin off large economic benefits through UC San Diego’s education, public service, healthcare, and research missions. The VTOC would contain many sustainability features including photovoltaic panels to support regional climate action goals.

Caltrans would like to thank USDOT for its consideration of this Project.

Sincerely,

STEVEN KECK
Acting Director

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"