April 28, 2022

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

Subject: Support for UC San Diego’s Voigt Electric Mobility Hub – RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), I am writing to express support for the Voigt Electric Mobility Hub Project (Project) submitted by UC San Diego (UCSD) to the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program.

The Project is sited on the UC San Diego Blue Line extension, providing a one-seat ride between the U.S.-Mexico border and the UCSD campus in the heart of San Diego’s “Golden Triangle” innovation district for computing and biotech. This intermodal facility extends the impact of the Blue Line, laying the foundation for a carbon-free last mile. By solving the last-mile problem, the Project helps make transit viable for northbound travelers in the I-5 corridor, reducing particulate emissions in the low-income neighborhoods and communities of color of south San Diego.

The Project will include a 40-vehicle bus yard and barn with 150kw depot charging for 24 transit buses in a secure, weather-protected environment and a shared-use 450kw inverted pantograph charger to support campus, regional and private transit vehicles, along with the electric delivery vehicles that are part of the campus Carbon Neutral Last Mile initiative.

In addition to housing and charging the traditional transit vehicles, the design includes weather-protected charging and parking for the fleet of 22 electric carts that support microtransit and door-to-door ADA transit between more than 630 buildings on the 1,158-acre UCSD campus. This leading investment in electric transit infrastructure will allow for accelerated electrification of transit vehicles with the full fleet on track to be electrified by 2030.

MTS and UCSD have a long-standing history of working collaboratively together on service planning and providing viable transportation options to the university and surrounding neighborhoods. This Project will bring critical last-mile options to the corridor, helping to make
transit a more viable option. Similar to UCSD, MTS is transitioning to a fully zero emission bus fleet and is looking forward to the opportunity of shared charging facilities to support efforts in reducing particulate and greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, MTS supports funding for the UCSD Voigt Electric Mobility Hub Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sharon Cooney
Chief Executive Officer