April 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of UC San Diego’s application for its Voigt Electric Mobility Hub (Hub) proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s RAISE grant program. Of utmost importance, this proposal will reduce vehicle emissions that negatively impact public health in our region, especially in disadvantaged communities.

The Hub will be sited on the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley light rail extension, which would extend the impact of the Blue Line and lay the foundation for a carbon-free last mile. It would also make transit more viable for travelers in underserved, overburdened, and disadvantaged communities of south San Diego County and thereby would reduce particulate emissions in those communities.

Additionally, the Hub will support commuters and campus residents with Level 2 EV charging supported by 100% carbon-free energy generated from the Hub’s photovoltaic array and imported under UC San Diego’s renewable energy purchasing agreement. The parking will also provide parking options for southbound travelers on I-5, diverting private automobile trips to light rail and reducing impacts for historically disadvantaged communities in south San Diego.

The American Lung Association’s State of the Air Report Card gives San Diego County an “F” for Ozone and a “D” for Particle Pollution 24-hour.¹ UC San Diego’s Hub proposal will help alleviate the air pollution burden our communities face and will help shift the United States toward a carbon-neutral future. I urge you to fund this proposal.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Mayor