The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: UC San Diego’s RAISE grant application for the Voigt Electric Mobility Hub

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in strong support of UC San Diego’s application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to invest in the Voigt Electric Mobility Hub and to extend the impact of the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley. This proposal will provide the San Diego region with a carbon-free last-mile connection to cultural and coastal resources, well-paying jobs, specialty clinics, and educational opportunities at UC San Diego, one of the nation’s top-ranked research universities and home to the top-rated hospital in San Diego.

This ambitious and innovative project will invest in electric transit infrastructure at the Voigt Electric Mobility Hub located on the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley. This light rail transit (LRT) extension provides a one-seat ride between the U.S.-Mexico border and the UC San Diego campus, located in San Diego’s “Golden Triangle” innovation district. The Voigt Electric Mobility Hub will leverage federal, state, and local investments in the newly completed Mid-Coast Trolley Extension by providing new connectivity throughout the San Diego region and taking vital steps toward decarbonizing existing transportation options.

By enabling electrified last-mile and active transportation connections, the project will make LRT a viable option for more commuters, provide needed relief from rising gas prices, and reduce traffic and environmental impacts in the heavily impacted communities along the I-5 corridor. On evenings and weekends, it will serve as a park-and-ride facility which allows southbound travelers headed to downtown San Diego and the border to transfer to LRT, saving money and reducing environmental impacts.

UC San Diego’s $25 million proposal includes a 40-vehicle bus yard and barn with the capacity to charge campus, regional, and private transit vehicles. It will feature facilities for a driver training and safety workforce development program; 1,150 parking stalls to support campus commuters, residents, and visitors; and an additional 1.25 miles of protected bikeway to connect the Voigt Electric Mobility hub with two light rail stations, three medical centers, and the rest of the UC San Diego campus.

I strongly support this proposal, which will help advance critical transportation priorities in the San Diego region. USDOT’s support will provide economic, environmental, and health benefits for my constituents and progress USDOT’s goals for a more resilient and equitable transportation system. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SARA JACOBS
Member of Congress