April 5, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Subject: Support for USCD’s 2022 RAISE Application

On behalf of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), I am pleased to support the University of California San Diego (UCSD) submission to the US Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

UCSD is seeking grant funding through the RAISE discretionary grant program for its Voigt Transit Operations Center (VTOC). UCSD and SANDAG have a long history of partnership and collaboration on many critical infrastructure projects, including the recently completed Mid-Coast Light Rail Transit extension, that provides two light rail transit (LRT) stations on the UC San Diego campus.

The VTOC would provide 400 level 2 electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations, campus fleet shuttle parking with overhead charging for 24 EV shuttles, space for the campus’s emergency operations center (EOC), and office space for the university’s Transportation Services to create a transit operations hub. The VTOC project would strategically redevelop an existing surface parking lot, located within a 10-minute walk to two recently completed campus LRT stations. This location enables the university to further implement its vision to create a pedestrian and micromobility friendly environment in the core areas of the campus to promote safety.

This project aligns with SANDAG’s recently adopted regional transportation plan due to its strategic position to support access to LRT, the university campus, bike facilities, access to the campus shuttle operations, and EV charging. This project aligns well with RAISE program objectives of efficient transportation design, ZEV infrastructure, and promotion of transit and active transportation. SANDAG supports this submission in its mission to improve and modernize San Diego’s regional transportation network.

Sincerely,

COLEEN CLEMENTSON
Deputy Chief Executive Officer