Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, whose mission it is to make riding a bicycle a safe, comfortable, and accessible means of transportation for everyone, I strongly support the University of California (UC) San Diego’s application for its Voigt Electric Mobility Hub (Hub) proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s RAISE discretionary grant program.

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition advocates for and protects the rights of all people who ride bicycles. The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition promotes bicycling as a mainstream, safe, and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation. Since 1987, our organization has acted as the voice for bicyclists and as such, has advocated for safer streets and hundreds of miles of bike paths, lanes, and trails across the San Diego region. We actively conduct educational programs, promote awareness of bicyclists and bicycling issues, review infrastructure improvements, and act as a liaison between bicyclists and government officials.

The Hub will be located 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 taking transit to the resources at UCSD more viable to the residents of the disadvantaged and underserved communities of South San Diego County.

The funding requested through the RAISE discretionary grant program will allow the university to proceed with this critical investment in green infrastructure and provide a carbon-free last mile connection to cultural and coastal resources, along with the top rated hospital in San Diego, well-paying jobs, specialty clinics, and educational opportunity at one of the top-ranked universities for social mobility.

We are especially enthusiastic about the additional 1.25 miles of Class IV cycletrack that will be installed as part of this project, providing a separated bicycle facility that connects the new project to two light rail stations, three medical centers (UC San Diego, Scripps, and VA San Diego), the Canyon View Aquatic Center, and the Preuss School, UC San Diego’s charter school serving high potential students from underserved communities. The facility will feature electric bike and scooter sharing and charging and a 100-stall secure bicycle parking facility with electronic access and security cameras to provide the highest level of security for micro mobility users and their vehicles.

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. UC San Diego’s Hub proposal will help alleviate the air pollution burden that our communities face and will help shift the United States toward a carbon-neutral future. The improvements proposed as part of this grant application are consistent with the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition’s mission. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support.

Sincerely,

Will Rhatigan
Advocacy Director