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

RE: UC San Diego – RAISE Grant Program Application  

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,  

I write in support of the UC San Diego’s (UCSD) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Voight Electric Mobility Hub Project.  

The project would provide the San Diego region with a carbon-free, last-mile connection to cultural and coastal resources, the Scripps hospital, specialty clinics, and educational opportunities at UCSD, one of the nation’s top-ranked research universities.  

Additionally, the project will invest in electric transit infrastructure at the Voight Electric Mobility Hub, sited on the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley, a light rail transit (LRT) extension that provides a one-seat ride between the U.S.-Mexico border and the UCSD campus. It is my understanding that the Voight Electric Mobility Hub will leverage federal, state, and local investments in the newly completed Mid-Coast Trolley Extension by providing and taking important 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, providing needed relief from rising gas prices and reducing traffic and environmental impacts in the heavily impacted communities along the I-5 corridor.  

For all the aforementioned reasons, I urge your full and fair consideration of UC San Diego’s application consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. The project will help advance critical transportation priorities in the San Diego region and provide constituents with economic, environmental, and health benefits.  

Please keep my office informed of the status of this application, and if I can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact my San Diego Field Representative, Artemis Hodoyan, at (202) 740-4543. Thank you for your attention and consideration.  

Respectfully submitted,  

ALEX PADILLA  
United States Senator