May 17, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the University of California, San Diego’s (UCSD) application for funding from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program.

UCSD is requesting $25 million in funding to broaden the usage of the UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley through the development of their Voight Electric Mobility Hub (VEMH). The VEMH project is aimed at creating green infrastructure that will be used both on and along the last mile of the Blue Line Trolley. The VEMH would consist of a charging depot for vehicles, 450 kW pantograph charges (for public and private use), 400 Level II electrical vehicle charging stalls, 200 bike parking spaces, protected Class IV bikeways, shared-use parking, solar power generators, and a training facility for commercial drivers. The new charging depot (Triton Transit’s Transit Operations Center) included in this project is equipped to charge 24 electric transit buses and 30 smaller microtransit and paratransit vehicles at a time, while also adding storage to house 16 buses. These changes would allow for the trolley to become more reliable for transportation and would decrease the environmental burden that this transit currently places on several underserved communities along the trolley’s corridor.

I urge you to give UCSD’s application your full consideration. If you have any questions regarding this grant application, please do not hesitate to contact my San Diego office at (619) 231-9712.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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http://feinstein.senate.gov