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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND MONETARY POLICY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Blue Line Passenger Variable Message Sign (VMS) and Public Address (PA) System Upgrades Project” in fiscal year 2024, in the amount of \$882,000. The entity to receive the funding is the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), located at 1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92101.

The Blue Line Passenger Variable Messaging Sign (VMS) Upgrades project will replace aging infrastructure at 12 of the Blue Lines stations. The Blue Line is a 26-mile light rail line in the MTS service area. The route operates from the U.S./Mexico International Border, San Ysidro to University Towne Center, La Jolla. The Blue Line has the highest ridership of the San Diego Trolley's three regular lines, transporting over 17 million riders during 2022. The Blue Line supports travel to and from jobs, healthcare visits, groceries and leisure trips for the various communities surrounding the operating line.

Maintaining the safety and positive customer experience of MTS's passengers and the communities served is top priority. Ensuring passengers have technology that display correct and adequate service information or safety updates is critical for the community members utilizing public transit. Currently, the line is served by VMS that are nearly 10 years old and have limited capabilities. This funding will allow MTS to upgrade the remaining VMS signs along the 12 Blue Line rail stations to the latest technology. The new signs will support greater display flexibility to provide a combination of real-time train arrivals and departures, incorporation of connecting services, provision of important messages to convey to passengers, and promotional opportunities.

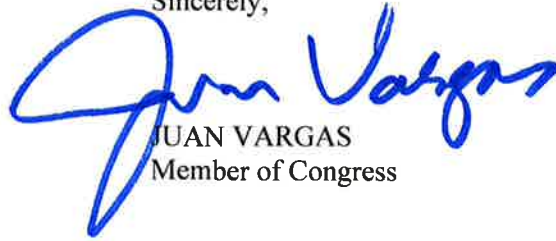
This request is a good use of taxpayer funds because the project will replace aging infrastructure by upgrading passenger information signs and public address systems, while maintaining state of good repair. The new passenger variable message signs and PA system upgrades will provide a combination of real-time train arrivals and departures, incorporation of connecting services, provision of important messages to convey to passengers, and promotional opportunities. This will improve the overall customer service experience and improve safety by being able to immediately notify passengers of emergency situations.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code.

This project has received written support from SD City Mayor Todd Gloria, SD County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, SD City Councilmember Vivian Moreno; and the San Diego Association of Governments.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" and last name "Vargas" clearly distinguishable.

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress