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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

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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 Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Clean Transit Advancement Campus - Design Phase” project in fiscal year 2025, in the amount of \$5,000,000. The entity to receive the funding is the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, located at 1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92101.

This project will fund the building of an all new zero-emission bus division for MTS and its future service expansion. Currently, MTS has five bus divisions with the primary functions of bus operations, maintenance, and administrative support. All five are at or near capacity, limiting MTS’s ability to electrify its fleet and add new services. This request will provide funding towards the design phase of the Clean Transit Advancement Campus (CTAC), MTS’s new zero-emission bus division.

In 2019, MTS approved a plan to convert its entire bus fleet to a fully zero-emission fleet by 2040. The charging infrastructure footprint and additional peak bus needs to accommodate this plan will require additional bus division capacity. It is critical for MTS to develop an additional bus division to resolve current capacity constraints, operate service throughout the transition without interruption, and meet the future space needs for complete fleet electrification.

This project is a good use of taxpayer resources because the project will provide significant public benefits to the communities MTS serves in the County of San Diego, with approximately 31 million bus passengers every year. These benefits include additional job opportunities; zero-emission bus charging infrastructure; a LEED-certified facility; Envision Certification; advancement of zero-emission technologies; prioritization of clean, zero-emission transit services in disadvantaged communities; and enhancement and expansion of transit services to the region. The CTAC project is also a major investment in jobs and clean technology in an area of San Diego surrounded by disadvantaged communities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5302(4).

This project has broad support from the community, including from California Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber; San Diego City Council President, Sean Elo-Rivera; and Ray Major, the Chief Deputy CEO of the San Diego Association of Governments. The project has also been included in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program for the San Diego region.

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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress