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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING,
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE, CIVILIAN SECURITY,
AND TRADE
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

April 30, 2021

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

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

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the "24th Street First and Last Mile Connections to Trolley Station" project in fiscal year 2022, in the amount of \$3,332,781. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of National City, located at 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, CA 91950.

The \$3,332,781 requested in funding will cover the entirety of the funding needed for the 24th Street First and Last Mile Connections to Trolley Station project, which consists of cycle tracks along 22nd Street and Hoover Avenue. Along 22nd Street, the proposed project will convert parallel parking on the north side to angled and remove parking on the south side and the existing Class II bike lanes, and place a two-way Class IV cycle track from the 24th Street Trolley Station to Hoover Avenue. Along Hoover Avenue, the proposed project will remove one lane in each direction, add a new center left-turn lane, and implement one-way Class IV cycle tracks from 22nd Street to 30th Street. Finally, the project will provide safe comfortable bikeway connections between the 24th Street Trolley Station and residential and commercial land uses to the east and south.

The City of National City Homefront to Waterfront (HW) Plan, IntraConnect Plan, and the 24th Street Transit Oriented Development Overlay (TODO) Plan incorporated extensive community outreach efforts to develop community-identified transportation needs. As part of the HW effort, 56% of the community members stated that separated bike lanes that are protected from adjacent travel lane with a physical barrier would make them more likely to bike in the project area. As part of the IntraConnect Plan, over 50% of the residents are deterred from biking due to traffic safety, and nearly 33% stated the need to have less cars on the street and enhanced safety for bicycle facilities. And as part of the TODO effort, 50% of the respondents identified the need for improved walking and bicycling connections to the 24th Street Trolley Station, parks, the Bayshore Bikeway, and the Sweetwater Bikeway.

The 24th Street First and Last Mile Connections to the Trolley Station will address these needs by providing protected bicycle facilities on 22nd Street and Hoover Avenue. The 22nd Street two-way cycle track provides direct access to the 24th Street Trolley Station, and the recently completed Paradise Creek Park. A new traffic signal is proposed on 22nd Street at National City Boulevard that will help bicyclists and pedestrians cross the busy 4-lane arterial roadway and access these important community resources. The Hoover Avenue cycle tracks reduce cars on the road by removing one travel lane in each direction to dedicate space to bicyclists. This will greatly strengthen and improve safety of the bicycle network, connecting the 22nd Street cycle track to both the Bayshore Bikeway and Sweetwater Bikeway. Both cycle

tracks will also make the walking experience safer and more comfortable by creating additional separation between pedestrians and vehicles.

In addition to the key destinations that residents will be able to access safely for their everyday needs, the proposed cycle track facilities will provide equitable access to the 24th Street Trolley Station. These connections cannot be understated, as it gives residents within the National City Community a clean transportation option to access the trolley and shared mobility routes, potentially traveling as far north as Downtown San Diego. With 74% of residents commuting outside of the city, this connection to the trolley station is even more critical, especially for the low-income residents who cannot afford their own vehicle

The project is part of the City of National City's proposed Health and Opportunity through Partnerships for Equity (HOPE) Improvements Projects. This is a collection of projects that have been vetted with public input and have been approved or accepted by National City's City Council. As described by the City Council, these projects will provide safe and accessible active and alternative transportation facilities for users of all ages and abilities. The proposed improvements will promote clean mobility alternatives as a viable travel choice, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle, as well as enhance the quality of life for disadvantaged residents in National City. The projects also have written support from National City Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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