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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
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MONETARY POLICY, TREASURY MARKET RESILIENCE,
AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the MTS's SafeRide Camera Modernization Project in fiscal year 2027, in the amount of \$648,000. 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 upgrade the existing On-Board Vehicle Surveillance Systems (OBVSS) on 36 Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) to improve capabilities and modernize the system to current industry standards. The current OBVSS on the Light Rail Vehicles were installed in 2012. While these systems have supported operational and security needs for over a decade, they are now approaching obsolescence. Aging hardware and outdated technology limit reliability, increase maintenance costs, and restrict the agency's ability to leverage advancements in surveillance technology. Each vehicle will be equipped with up to 14 high-definition cameras and ruggedized onboard video storage to provide comprehensive coverage of operator cabs and interior/exterior passenger areas. The upgraded system will include wireless, multi-mode connectivity to enable real-time live streaming and secure video downloads.

This project is a good use of federal funds because it will serve over 80 million MTS riders, vehicle operators, maintenance personnel, and the broader community. The upgraded system will improve rider and employee safety, deter criminal activity, support law enforcement investigations, and promote a secure transit environment.

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 broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

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

Thank you for your consideration of funding for these programs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Senior Legislative Assistant, Michael Rivas, at michael.rivas@mail.house.gov.

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 "V".

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress