



April 11, 2023

Nuria Fernandez  
Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Support for San Diego Metropolitan Transit System for FY 2023 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign, I write to you today to support San Diego Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) application, Clean Transit Advancement Campus Project, submitted under the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2023 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs.

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 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.

Additionally, achievement of MTS and regional climate action goals will require a significant reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and an increase in transit mode share. To meet this challenge, MTS must substantially increase transit bus services over the next two decades. Accordingly, both MTS's Elevate SD and SANDAG's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, San Diego Forward, envision a vast expansion of bus service in the coming years. These plans

include converting existing bus routes to Rapid services, higher frequencies and longer spans on most bus routes, and new bus routes that will extend throughout the MTS service area.

This project will provide significant public benefits, including additional job opportunities; zero-emission bus charging infrastructure; a LEED-certified facility; 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. This priority project will address a critical need for additional space, achieving regional climate and mobility goals as well as zero-emission bus expansion.

For these reasons, Climate Action Campaign respectfully requests your support in awarding MTS's CTAC Project under the FY 2023 Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs.

Sincerely,



Corinna Contreras,  
Transportation Policy Advocate  
Climate Action Campaign