



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Juan Vargas  
United States House of Representatives  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Letter of Support – FY 2024 Community Project Funding Request – San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Clean Transit Advancement Campus Project

Dear Congressman Vargas,

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign, I write to you today to respectfully urge your support in including the MTS Clean Transit Advancement Campus Project in the FY 2024 Community Project Funding request process.s.

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.

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 including this project application in the FY 2024 Community Project Funding request process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Corinna Contreras', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Corinna Contreras,  
Transportation Policy Advocate  
Climate Action Campaign