



May 17, 2022

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez, Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

As Chair of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission whose 13 Council-appointed members advise our City Council on environmental issues, I am writing in strong support for the **City of Alexandria, Virginia's** U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022 Low or No Emission Vehicle & Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant application. The proposed application uses a scalable approach for up to \$60 million for zero emissions buses, new electrical service and infrastructure, and workforce development.

In 2018 the City and DASH adopted a policy direction to shift to a 100% Zero Emissions bus fleet by the year 2037 for all 120+ of its buses. The City and DASH have shown commitment to this goal; to-date Alexandria has 14 battery electric buses, is building charging infrastructure, completed Zero Emissions Bus Feasibility/Implementation Plans, and secured \$9 million for its new 40-bus facility expansion/electric bus charging yard.

The proposed grant application will support the build of new electrical service and infrastructure to provide sufficient electricity to the DASH facility for electric bus charging. This will bring up to 12 megawatts of new energy service to the DASH facility needed to support the incremental and final charging needs of the entire DASH Zero Emissions fleet. The project also funds the conversion of up to 25 replacement buses in FY23 and FY24 from conventional to Battery Electric. Additionally, DASH has up to six expansion buses currently funded as conventional, which are proposed to be converted to Battery Electric under this proposal with associated charging infrastructure.

This critical project will help electrify the DASH bus fleets and bus facilities, improving air quality and combat climate change, benefiting the region's communities, residents, and stakeholders, especially its most vulnerable. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the **City of Alexandria's** grant application. Should you have questions, please contact me at kathlynhoekstra@icloud.com.

Sincerely,

Kathie Hoekstra

Kathie Hoekstra,
Chair of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission