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April 11, 2023

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Reference: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA's) Applications to the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Grant Program and Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program for Electrification Infrastructure at the Cinder Bed Road Bus Garage

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

This letter is intended to express the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's support for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) applications to the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program for electrification infrastructure at WMATA's Cinder Bed Road Bus Garage.

Fairfax County has been developing a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project on Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1), from the Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir, known as "The One," for several years. In FY 2021, the County was admitted to the Capital Investment Grants (CIG)/New Starts program by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will soon enter the Engineering phase. One of the key elements of the County's Richmond Highway BRT project is establishing an Operations and Maintenance facility from which to base the BRT service. To that end, Fairfax County and WMATA are developing a Joint Use Agreement (JUA) that will allow the County's BRT fleet of battery-electric vehicles to be housed and maintained at Cinder Bed.

In accordance with a WMATA Board directive to convert the Metrobus fleet to zero emissions vehicles by 2045, WMATA recently decided to convert its Operations and Maintenance facilities to accommodate a zero-emissions fleet. Cinder Bed is now slated for conversion beginning in 2024. WMATA's improvements, combined with the County BRT project, will make Cinder Bed home to a fully battery-electric fleet. These improvements should be in place well ahead of BRT revenue service in 2030. If awarded, these FTA funds will support the electrification of Cinder Bed, including elements that are mutually beneficial to WMATA and the County, such as site preparation, electric utility improvements, installation of charging units, and construction of critical support infrastructure.

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FTA's Low or No Emission Grant Program and Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program are tremendous opportunities for both WMATA and Fairfax County to advance a project that will be critical for the long-term success of public transit services in Northern Virginia. Thank you in advance for your consideration of WMATA's application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay

Chairman

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Tim Kaine, Senator, United States Senate

The Honorable Mark Warner, Senator, United States Senate

The Honorable Donald Beyer, Congressman, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Gerry Connolly, Congressman, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jennifer Wexton, Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives

Bryan J. Hill, County Executive

Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive

Tom Biesiadny, Director, Department of Transportation

Gregg Steverson, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Noelle Dominguez, Chief, Coordination and Funding Division, Department of Transportation

Brent Riddle, Transportation Planner IV, Department of Transportation