



May 26th, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support for Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT) combined application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program for the construction of the new, state-of-the-art, Southside Bus Operating Division Facility. This grant will support a critical component of HRT's expanding service and will meet both HRT's and USDOT's goals of moving towards a green-energy future. The new Southside Bus Operating Division Facility will replace aging, inefficient infrastructure, reduce operating costs, and provide opportunities for job creation and training in the region. The new facility will be built to support up to 100 battery electric buses and will have the ability to leverage an increasingly carbon free grid and alternative energy sources such as electricity generated from on-site solar panels.

HRT is vital to the economy of Hampton Roads. They provide transit service to six of Virginia's ten most populous cities. In addition to 72 bus routes, the agency provides ferry, paratransit, seasonal trolleys, and transportation demand management services. HRT is also home to Virginia's only light rail system. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, HRT carried nearly 1,000,000 trips per month across the region on all of its services. The new Southside Bus Operating Division Facility, supported by these grants, will enable the agency to continue to meet its goal of connecting Hampton Roads with transportation solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient, and sustainable.

As the primary electricity provider and utility partner of HRT, Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) fully supports the HRT's combined application and the conversion to a zero-emissions bus fleet with supporting charging facilities. Dominion Energy is committed to sustainable, reliable, affordable, and safe energy and to achieving net zero carbon dioxide and methane emissions by 2050. As supported by the Virginia Clean Economy Act, DEV intends to install roughly 24,000 megawatts of solar, wind and storage by 2035 to power our customers. Additionally, our Grid Transformation Plan includes investments in support of renewable and distributed energy, as well as grid infrastructure to ensure reliable energy that is critical for all-electric transit fleets like HRT.

HRT's fleet and facility electrification, coupled with Dominion Energy's investments in renewable energy and grid modernization and experience with electric transportation, will provide long-term, tangible benefits to the citizens of Virginia, such as improvement in air quality and reduced carbon emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of the Hampton Roads Transit grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Woome", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph A Woome
Vice President, New Business & Customer Solutions
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