

May 24, 2022

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

RE: HRTPO Letter of Support for the Hampton Roads Transit Southside Bus Operating Division Facility: FTA's Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to provide this letter of 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 jobs in the region. The new facility will be built to support up to 100 battery-electric buses and will have the ability to use renewable energy sources such as electricity generated from the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project, offshore wind farms, and on-site solar panels.

The project will cost between \$73 and \$119 million, depending upon the level of electrification. HRT is requesting \$60 million through this combined application.

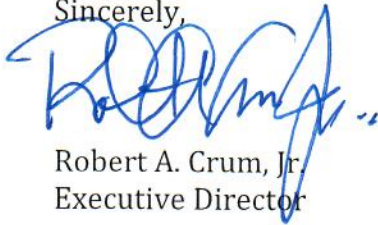
HRT is vital to the economy of Hampton Roads, providing transit service to six of Virginia's ten most populous cities. In addition to 72 bus routes, the agency provides ferry, paratransit, seasonal trolleys, and transportation demand management services. HRT is also home to Virginia's only light rail 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 the residents of Hampton Roads with transportation solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient, and sustainable.

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The staff of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) has reviewed the proposed project and it is consistent with the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Should this project be selected under the FTA's Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program and sufficiently funded, it will be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Should you need any additional information in support of this project, please contact me at (757) 420-8300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Crum, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Director

KG/cm

Copy: William Harrell, HRT  
Ray Amoruso, HRT