

# HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL

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February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT), Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) \$25 million grant application for the construction of the new, state-of-the-art, net-zero ready, Southside Bus Operating Division Facility and the agency transition to a zero emissions fleet. The facility will provide necessary maintenance and operations support spaces to allow HRT to significantly expand its service through the new Regional Transit System (RTS).

The RTS program includes a 13-route regional backbone bus service that connects the six cities HRT serves with 15-minute service frequencies and increases service to approximately 487,000 citizens. This grant will support this 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 Maintenance Facility will replace aging, inefficient infrastructure, reduce operating costs, and provide opportunities for more regional jobs. The new facility will be built to support a 100% electric fleet. It will be able to use alternative energy sources, such as electricity generated from offshore wind farms, geothermal heating, and on-site solar panels.

At the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, we know firsthand how vital public transportation services are to the citizens we serve daily. Providing transit service to six of Virginia's ten most populous cities, HRT helps sustain Hampton Roads' economy. In addition to 73 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. HRT carries approximately 600,000 trips per month across the region on all of its services. The New Southside Bus Operating Facility supported by this RAISE grant application will enable HRT to continue to meet its goal of connecting Hampton Roads with transportation solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient, and sustainable.

I appreciate your consideration of the Hampton Roads Transit RAISE application.

Sincerely,



Shawn Avery, *President and CEO*

**THE HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL**  
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