



February 23, 2023

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: Hampton Roads Transit (HRT)
Southside Bus Operating Division Facility RAISE Grant Application
Letter of Support

Secretary Buttigieg:

The Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA) is pleased to provide this letter of support for Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT) FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program request. The HRT's grant request of \$25 million would provide funding for constructing a state-of-the-art, net-zero ready, Southside Bus Operating Division Facility and agency transition to a zero emissions fleet. The facility will provide the necessary maintenance and operations support facilities to allow HRT to greatly expand its service through the new Regional Transit System (RTS).

HRMFFA provides a focused regional voice in matters relating to attracting, retaining, and growing Hampton Roads' many Federal capabilities and installations. Today, the 16 communities that comprise HRMFFA collectively support 18 military installations, five military service branches, including approximately 120,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel, over 125,000 military dependents, and over 230,000 veterans. With additional NASA, Department of Energy, Veterans Affairs, and Interior facilities, there is arguably not a denser concentration of federal installations elsewhere in the country outside of Washington, DC.

This project includes a 13-route regional backbone bus service that connects the six cities HRT serves with 15-minute frequencies and increases transportation service to approximately 487,000 citizens. The transit system provides a necessary service to many military members assigned to the region, ships and squadrons with visiting personnel, regional DOD employees, and other workforce members that support functions among federal installations. 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 Maintenance Facility will replace aging inefficient infrastructure, reduce operating costs, and provide more regional job opportunities.



The new facility will be designed to fully support a 100% electric fleet utilizing alternative energy sources generated from offshore wind farms, geothermal heating, and on-site solar panels.

HRT is vital to the Hampton Roads economy, providing transit service to six of Virginia's ten most populous cities. 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, which makes approximately 600,000 trips per month across the region among all its services. The addition of the Southside Bus Operating Facility supported by this RAISE grant application will enable HRT to connect Hampton Roads utilizing modern, efficient, and sustainable transportation solutions. The importance of this project and its vitality to Hampton Roads, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States cannot be understated.

HRMFFA urges you to approve this funding request to allow this critically important transportation project to move forward to completion. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at rdwyer@hrmffa.org or 757-644-6324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RDwyer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard E. Dwyer
Executive Director