



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

**Jennifer B. DeBruhl**  
Director

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), I am writing to express my strong support for Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT) application for funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) grant program. HRT is requesting \$25 million for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art net-zero ready facility called the Southside Bus Operating Facility. The Facility will provide the necessary maintenance and operations space to allow HRT to greatly expand service through the new Regional Transit System (RTS).

The RTS program comprises a regional backbone service of 13 bus routes that connect the six jurisdictions served by HRT. The regional service provides 15-minute service frequencies to approximately 487,000 citizens. Funding from the RAISE program will support HRT's expanding service and meet both HRT's and USDOT's goals of moving towards a green-energy future. The Southside Bus Operating Facility will replace the current obsolete facility, reduce operating and maintenance costs, and provide opportunities for more jobs in the region. The new facility will support a 100% electric zero-emission fleet and will also utilize alternative energy sources such as electricity generated from offshore wind farms, geothermal heating, and on-site solar panels.

Hampton Roads Transit provides transit service to six of Virginia's ten most populous cities and is vital to the economy of Hampton Roads. In addition to 73 bus routes, the agency provides ferry, ADA paratransit, seasonal trolleys, and transportation demand management (TDM) services. HRT provides approximately 600,000 trips per month across the region on all services. The new Southside Bus Operating Facility supported by this RAISE grant will enable HRT to continue to meet its goal of connecting Hampton Roads with transportation solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient, and sustainable.

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation strongly supports the development and construction of a new Southside Bus Operating Facility for Hampton Roads Transit and has allocated Commonwealth Mass Transit capital funds to support this project. Thank you for your consideration of the Hampton Roads Transit RAISE application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer DeBruhl'.

Jennifer DeBruhl