



Means Business



VIRGINIA  
PENINSULA  
CHAMBER

May 31, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is to express the support of the Hampton Roads Chamber for Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT) combined application to obtain funding for a new Southside Bus Operating Division Facility. If approved, the funding for would go to support a new energy efficient facility in the region. The application applies to the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program.

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 and maintain up to 100 battery charged electric buses. Due to the proposed location of the facility, it will also be able to capture energy from the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project as well as 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 through:

- 72 bus routes
- Ferries
- Paratransit
- Seasonal Trollies
- Transportation Demand Management Services
- Light Rail System

This new bus facility will help meet the requirement for Virginia's new green energy goals, as well as it will provide support citizens commuting to work, school, and medical with reliable and consistent service.

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

Sincerely,

Bryan Stephens,  
President & CEO  
Hampton Roads Chamber

Bob McKenna,  
President & CEO  
Virginia Peninsula Chamber