



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 30, 2016

Ms. Carolyn Flowers
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Low or No Emission Grant Application – Foothill Transit
Service Expansions with Electric Buses # GRANT12165636**

**Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Application – Foothill Transit
Bus Electrification, Service Expansion # GRANT12165654
Mt. San Antonio College Transit Center # GRANT12165660**

Dear Administrator Flowers:

We write to express our support for two grant applications submitted by Foothill Transit for electric bus expansion and a new transit center located at one of the largest community colleges in California. Foothill Transit is seeking funding for its electric bus expansion project from the Low or No Emission (LoNo) and/or Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs. These investments are part of Foothill Transit's participation in the "Race to Zero" which was recently announced by Secretary Fox. Foothill is also seeking funding for a new transit center on the campus of Mt. San Antonio College from the Bus and Bus Facilities grant program.

Foothill Transit has been the leader in electric bus technology since 2010, with the deployment of the first three fast charge electric buses in the nation. With the largest electric bus fleet in the nation, Foothill Transit now operates multiple transit routes with clean electric vehicles, creating an across the board reduction in carbon emissions, operating noise and energy costs.

The electric bus expansion proposals will extend these benefits to a wider swath of the population by deploying 25 more electric buses onto routes throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Five of these buses will be electric double decker buses, the first of their kind in the country, providing express service to and from Los Angeles Union Station. The remaining 20 Proterra Catalyst buses, which will be built locally at Proterra's facility in the San Gabriel Valley, will replace existing natural gas buses in local service throughout the region, providing a zero emission connection to two major transit hubs: the El Monte Station and the Pomona Transit Center.


These zero emission connections provide large multimodal transfer capabilities which will strengthen connectivity throughout the San Gabriel Valley. This funding will enable Foothill Transit to continue its rapid progress towards full electrification of its bus fleet by 2030, which will have transformative benefits for the San Gabriel Valley, with significant reductions in pollution and energy usage.

The Mt. San Antonio College Transit Center will include ten bus bays, two electric bus chargers, transit information and passenger amenities. With over 30,000 students, and 2,400 staff and faculty members at the college, access to the campus is a significant problem. While Foothill Transit provides almost three million boardings a year on lines that reach the college, there is currently no on-campus transit access. This transit center will consolidate and centralize ten off-campus curbside stops located on high-speed arterial roads around the college to allow safer pedestrian access to and from the campus. The transit center will expand access to educational and employment facilities, while substantially improving safety for transit riders.

The greater Los Angeles region currently has some of the worst air quality in the country. The conversion of Foothill Transit's fleet to fully electric vehicles, and the increased transit access and service improvements through the transit center, proactively address these environmental concerns, as well as promoting leadership in electric vehicle deployment and sustainable transportation in the greater Southern California region.

On behalf of the residents of the area we represent, we appreciate your consideration of Foothill Transit's applications for funding from both the Low or No Emissions and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs, as we work to invest for the benefit of generations to come. Foothill Transit is assertively "Racing to Zero" as a world leader in electric transit bus deployment.

Sincerely,


GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress


EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress


ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress


JUDY CHU
Member of Congress


NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress