

DATE

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Transit Administration)
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As Chair of the Environmental Policy Commission whose 13 Council-appointed members advise our City Council on environmental issues, I am writing to express the Commission's support for the City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application. The proposed application will advance transit-oriented development planning in the Duke Street Corridor of Alexandria.

The City is a leader in developing community-driven land use plans that advance and expand equitable transportation access, most recently evidenced in the 2009 North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan and implementation framework that led to the May 2023 opening of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station in partnership with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The Duke Street Corridor Plan, scheduled to begin mid-2024, will integrate recommendations from the recently completed planning for the Duke Street bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor. In addition, the Plan will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned transit corridor to reflect current City priorities related to housing affordability, equity, open space, sustainability, and mobility, while integrating transit-oriented development principles such as walkability, variety of uses, and transit-supportive density, among others. In addition, this grant, if secured, will leverage resources already committed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for design and implementation of BRT in this corridor.

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission is committed to continued work towards transit-oriented development planning in Alexandria that implements the City's priorities for equitable transportation access, environmental sustainability, and a livable community. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Alexandria's grant application. Should you have any questions, please contact me at kathlynhoekstra@icloud.com.

Sincerely,