



The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
FHWA, Office of Planning, Environment and Realty (HEP)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

July 12, 2024

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

As Chair of the City of Alexandria, Virginia's Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), whose 13 City Council-appointed members advise our city's elected leaders on environmental issues, I am writing in strong support for Alexandria's 2024 U.S. Department of Transportation's *Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program* application. If selected, this application will enable deployment of charging infrastructure needed to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles in the region and further the President's Justice40 Initiative.

Alexandria is a leader in advancing transportation electrification in the national capital region. The City has developed an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Readiness Strategy (EVRS) to act as a roadmap to meet the electric vehicle charging infrastructure and technical needs of City residents, workforce members, and visitors. The EVRS includes 31 recommendations that will build an effective, innovative, and sustainable electric vehicle ecosystem to sustain and grow charging capacity needs, facilitate local workforce competencies related to EV and battery charging technologies, and expand equitable access to EV mobility solutions.

The proposed community project will support the implementation of Alexandria's EVRS recommendations through the installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle chargers at multiple sites across the City, such as public parks, libraries, and recreation centers. The chargers will be located in areas that will benefit disadvantaged communities and serve areas with a high concentration of multi-unit dwellings and limited off-street parking. City residents are adopting electric vehicles at a rate faster than the national average, and this proposal is designed to speed up adoption rates by removing barriers to 'going electric.'

The EPC is committed to working with Alexandria's City leadership to accelerate the deployment of charging infrastructure and electrification of our transportation systems. Like many cities with relatively small proportions of heavy industries, we know that reduction in fossil fuel-based cars and trucks is an imperative to combat climate change, improve air quality, and bring forward the environmental, health and safety benefits of advanced and fossil-free mobility technologies. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Alexandria's grant application. Should you have questions, please contact me at martalynne14@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Marta Schantz
Chair
City of Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission