



June 23, 2025

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to share my support as Chair of the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) for the City of Alexandria's application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emissions Vehicles and Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant programs. The project will seek up to \$36 million in Federal funding for the DASH Facility Rehabilitation, up to twelve (12) replacement buses, and build the foundations for a Microgrid to support its fleet and operations.

These projects will help the City's award-winning public transit system, DASH, maintain State of Good Repair and continue in its ability to provide robust, effective, and productive transportation to Alexandria's community of families, students, workers, and visitors. The DASH Facility Rehabilitation project will fund critical repairs needed to rehabilitate the DASH Facility as it is quickly approaching mid-life. The replacement of up to (12) DASH buses will replace DASH buses that have well exceeded their useful lifespan. The microgrid project will build the foundations of a microgrid, which will support the future DASH Facility Expansion by increasing energy resiliency. Each of these project components will enable DASH and the City of Alexandria to maintain a world class public transportation system that competes amongst the best internationally.

The City of Alexandria has been named by Fortune Magazine as 18th Best Place to Live for Families, measuring over 200,000 data points across over 1,800 communities. This is the highest ranked community in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is a testament to the investment the City has made to supporting multi-generational families. As one of those major investments of the City, the DASH bus system provides robust and high quality transportation to the community, serving families, students, residents, and visitors. The system serves a major role in supporting the transportation of middle and high school students to schools in the community, in ways that are typically only done by yellow school buses in many other communities. Economically, DASH supports 13,000 local jobs and supports the generation of \$64 million in local tax revenue.

The Environmental Policy Commission and the City of Alexandria have successfully partnered on various transportation projects. We are committed to continuing our support for the City of



Alexandria and DASH to help maintain a world class transportation infrastructure, benefiting strong family-oriented communities, and stimulating the local economy.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the **City of Alexandria's** grant application. Should you have questions, please contact (231) 598-2332 or email martaschantz@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Marta Schantz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marta Schantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marta" and last name "Schantz" clearly distinguishable.

Chair, City of Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)