![South Bay Cities Council of Governments logo]

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November 18, 2021

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FY 2021 BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATION
Los Angeles Metro J (Silver) Line Electrification Project

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) request for a grant award from the Federal Transit Administration's Buses & Bus Facilities Grant Program for the J (Silver) Line Electrification Project (the "Project"). The J Line connects several cities and communities located along its 38-mile route and provides residents and commuters with critical access to employment, educational, recreational, and medical opportunities in Los Angeles County. A grant award for the Project would also support the implementation of President Biden's Justice 40 Initiative.

The Project consists of the procurement and installation of 10 en-route charging stations and 40 depot charging stations and related infrastructure to implement the transition to zero-emission bus service on the J Line. These investments are necessary to support the operation of high-intensity motorbus service along the I-10 and I-110 freeways. A grant award for the Project would allow Metro to operate battery-electric buses, improving air quality and providing quieter services compared to the current operation of the Renewable Natural Gas bus fleet. The Project will guarantee reliable and improved express bus service from its terminus in the community of San Pedro and the Port of Los Angeles to the El Monte Transit Center. Along the way, it passes through the Harbor Gateway Transit Center and Downtown Los Angeles and is one of two express bus lines in Metro's system which connects several communities through central Los Angeles, including many disadvantaged communities. The majority of the bus line serves Equity Focused Communities, which Metro defines as having high thresholds of non-white, low-income and zero-car households. About half of riders on the J Line have annual household incomes below $25,000, and two-thirds do not own a car.

The Project supports Metro's commitment to transition its bus fleet to zero-emission operation by 2030, including full electrification of all local, rapid, shuttle, and express routes. A transition of this magnitude would be the first of its kind in the United States and would represent a

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significant step towards combatting greenhouse gas emissions. The Project will also support the implementation of Metro's *NexGen Bus Plan*, which is restructuring Metro's bus network and service to increase transit use over the next decade through a new operating model that is more relevant, reflective of, and attractive to the diverse customer needs within Los Angeles County. This project will be completed prior to Los Angeles hosting the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games and will show the country and the world that our region is committed to equity and sustainability as our transit system carries many of the expected visitors.

The SBCCOG supports the Project as it improves access to opportunities, health, and quality of life aspects to disadvantaged communities and the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Thank you for your consideration of this grant award. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director at (310) 371-7222 or via email at Jacki@southbaycities.org.

Sincerely,

Drew Boyles, SBCCOG Chair
Mayor, City of El Segundo