

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write in strong support of Valley Metro's Zero-Emission Bus Initiative, which includes the purchase of zero-emissions buses and associated tools, construction of necessary infrastructure and workforce training. Statewide utilities in Arizona have committed to being renewable and carbon free by 2050, and we need to make the initial investments necessary for our transit infrastructure to do the same.

Following Valley Metro's research on transit electrification, Valley Metro has determined that electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses can be successful in our region. As a result, the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro are ready to make this initial investment for the betterment of our communities.

Battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell bus technology has tremendous potential for improving the quality of life in the region. Considering today's sources of electricity generation, electric buses are more environmentally friendly than traditional buses. The operation of zero-emission buses would also help Maricopa County control harmful pollutants, like ozone and PM10, and would improve the region's poor EPA air quality ratings.

The cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa, which would be served by the zero-emission buses, strongly support transportation electrification. The City of Phoenix has joined the C40 Climate Agreement – a commitment to deliver the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at a local level. Other regional efforts such as the Arizona Forward Sustainability Roadmap and the Arizona Transportation Electrification Plan also engage regional stakeholders and advance carbon neutrality at a larger scale. The City of Phoenix and Valley Metro have been active participants in both planning efforts and are committed to a cleaner, environmentally responsible future for Arizona.

This funding will provide the opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country. In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Greg Stanton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS