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March 13, 2020

K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams,

I am writing in support of the City of Tucson's application for Federal Transit Administration grant funds under the FY 2020 Low or No Emission Grant Program. The City of Tucson is seeking to purchase up to five 40' all-electric zero-emission buses, replacing the oldest biodiesel buses.

The City of Tucson of Tucson has long been committed to the use of alternative fuels, and this project represents a significant milestone in transitioning to a zero-emission fleet. Community support for this project is strong, and both community leaders and citizens have expressed their desire to incorporate more electric technology into the fleet.

The 2019 American Lung Association "State of the Air" gave Pima County a score of 'D' for air quality. As the population of Tucson grows, the air quality will only diminish. This project will help improve the region's air quality and provide needed testing and development for electric bus technology in hot climates. It will also be uniquely beneficial as Tucson's climate requires high fuel consumption because transit vehicles must generally run cooling systems from early spring to late fall.

Sun Tran has proposed to partner with Gillig Corporation and Tucson Electric Power, who will be a partner in contributing the charging stations and infrastructure for the buses.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration under all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress