

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE

EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CHAIR EMERITUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone (202) 225-2435 | Fax (202) 225-1541

101 W. Irvington Rd., BLDG. 4
Tucson, AZ 85714
Phone (520) 622-6788 | Fax (520) 622-0198

146 N. State Ave.
P.O. Box 4105
Somerton, AZ 85350
Phone (928) 343-7933 | Fax (928) 343-7949

1412 N. Central Ave., Suite B
Avondale, AZ 85323
Phone (623) 536-3388 | Fax (623) 535-7479

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)
INSTAGRAM: [Instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://www.instagram.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

October 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing regarding the National Park Service's (NPS) Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program (NSFLTP) 2022 grant application to address Grand Canyon National Park's shuttle bus fleet replacement that begins the transition to battery electric buses (BEBs) and the addition of solar panels for carbon-free electrical generation. The project embraces the requirements in Catalyzing America's Clean Energy Industries and Jobs through Federal Sustainability Executive Order, which was issued in December of 2021.

Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) is world-renowned for its spectacular views and is a natural wonder and world heritage site. The 1,904 square mile park features a range of recreational, cultural, geological, and historic activities and consistent visitation of more than 4.5 million visitors annually.

The shuttle bus fleet is the backbone of the South Rim's transportation system, which is relied upon by visitors and local residents to reach park destinations and make multimodal connections. However, the existing fleet is aging and due for replacement. The NPS proposes replacing the existing shuttle bus fleet of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses with a new, mixed fleet of BEBs and CNG buses, and making the necessary electrical infrastructure upgrades.

This project entails purchasing 10 BEBs, 16 CNG buses, and installing the electrical infrastructure and upgrades, including a solar parking canopy and 12 chargers, to sustainably support the electric buses. The total cost for this effort is estimated to be about \$40 million. The NPS will commit to a 10 percent match and ask that the NSFLTP program cover 90 percent of the total cost.

To ensure the project goals of continued multimodal connectivity, a sustained economy, and sustainable innovations are satisfied, this project will:

- Improve **safety** by guaranteeing that all buses in service are in good, operating condition, are maintained in the most up-to-date facility, and reduce the number of total vehicles traveling on park roads.

- Achieve a **state of good repair** by replacing an aging fleet and upgrading facilities to meet new equipment and capacity standards for electric bus needs.
- Promote **economic competitiveness** by maintaining an important link in the transportation network connecting visitors and residents to destinations that sustain the regional economy, particularly rural Arizona communities.
- Increase **quality of life** by ensuring an accessible, continuous, and sustainable connection across the park functions more efficiently and will produce less air and noise pollution, contributing to a healthier environment for all.

This project is of great importance to the entire state of Arizona, and I urge you to provide this proposal with full and fair consideration under all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' at the beginning.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress