



March 26, 2021

Ms. Amy Volz
FTA Office of Program Management
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) FTA Grant Application for the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program

Dear Ms. Volz:

I am writing to express support for an application by the District of Columbia's Department of Transportation's (DDOT) for federal funds under the FY 2021 Low or No Emission Vehicle Grant Program to support the purchase of new electric bus vehicles and for the addition of solar infrastructure to DDOT's South Capitol Street facility to house the electric fleet.

As transportation-related emissions make up 41% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), the DC Circulator Program's mission complements both COG's Region Forward vision as well as the goals advanced by our recent 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. The Region Forward Vision calls for transportation goals that maximize accessibility and affordability of the transportation systems in the region and minimizing environmental impacts. The 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan sets a regional goal of 50 percent GHG emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030 and calls for the acceleration of electrification of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

The DC Circulator bus program is a crucial component of the District of Columbia's transportation system and provides a vital service to residents, businesses, commuters and visitors to the nation's capital. DDOT's proposal to replace 14 of its DC Circulator diesel buses with electrics, add 3 electrics for route expansion, and support those vehicles with solar energy is an exciting opportunity to reduce pollutants from diesel transit vehicles and to continue providing the service that DC customers have come to depend upon. It will help achieve the District of Columbia's goal, part of the recently enacted CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act, that all District-owned public transportation fleet vehicles become emissions-free by 2045. Additionally, this project will have a positive impact on achieving the region's 2030 GHG reduction goal.

COG works closely with its local and state government members, including the District of Columbia, to make the region sustainable, accessible and safe for area residents and visitors. We are excited about the current success of the DC Circulator Program and will continue to support the District of Columbia's initiatives that protects and improves the region's environment. We encourage FTA to approve funding for this program.

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Please contact Leah Boggs, Senior Environmental Planner at lboggs@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chuck Bean
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Kanti Srikanth, Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning
Mr. Jeff King, Chief, Climate and Energy Programs