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March 28, 2022

Mr. Thomas Wilson  
FTA Office of Program Management  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FY 2021 Section 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program**

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer our support for the application from the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD) for funds from the Federal Transportation Administration's (FTA's) Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program. SBMTD's application is an important project for this area.

The proposed award will allow SBMTD to replace six diesel urban transit buses that are beyond their useful life as measured by FTA. SBMTD proposes to procure six 40-ft. battery-electric buses (BEBs). These buses will provide service throughout the South Coast. Additionally, the application also includes funds for the rehabilitation of SBMTD's "Terminal 2" facility in Goleta on Overpass Road, modernizing the facility with the infrastructure to charge and maintain a fully electric fleet in the future.

The Santa Barbara urbanized area served by SBMTD qualifies as a small transit-intensive city, as determined by FTA. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, SBMTD typically carried more than six million passengers annually. This project will help to ensure that SBMTD is able to continue to provide the current level of transit service in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,

**KRISTEN MILLER** | President/CEO  
SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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