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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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April 24, 2024

The Honorable Veronica Vanterpool
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Vanterpool:

I'm writing to wholeheartedly endorse NJ TRANSIT's application for the purchase of 67 New Flyer XE40 Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) for the Low- or No-Emission Grant Program and its application for the Meadowlands Outdoor Charging Facility for the Buses and Bus Facilities Program. These applications are crucial in our efforts to combat climate change.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s Low- or No-Emission Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program are instrumental in achieving the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, \$1.1 billion was authorized for the Low- and No-Emissions Grant Program and \$390 million for grants for buses and bus facilities. This historic investment will help transit agencies like NJ TRANSIT replace aging buses, provide good-paying jobs, and significantly improve transit systems' reliability. It will also play a pivotal role in reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, a significant step towards advancing environmental justice under President Biden's Justice40 Initiative. Specifically, I strongly support the following applications submitted by NJ TRANSIT:

Purchase of 67 New Flyer XE40 BEBs

NJ TRANSIT seeks funding from the Low- or No-Emission Grant Program to purchase 67 New Flyer XE40 BEBs. Procurement and contract have already been completed, and these new buses will add to an existing order with eight buses already in operation.

Meadowlands Outdoor Charging Facility

NJ TRANSIT seeks funding from the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program for its Meadowlands Outdoor Charging Facility to execute the design and construction of an outdoor charging facility at the Meadowlands Bus Garage in Secaucus, NJ. Among the largest of NJ TRANSIT's 16 bus garages, the Meadowlands Bus Garage houses approximately 12% of the bus fleet (220 buses). It operates 32 routes serving residents of New Jersey's most populated municipalities in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties.

This charging facility will utilize a canopy style with pantographs supplying electricity to buses. Building charging infrastructure is an identified need in the NJ TRANSIT 2020 Five-year Capital Plan under the Bus Garage Modernization Program and the Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan to prepare for upcoming purchases of BEBs. The first phase of this project will consist of installing charging equipment for approximately 67 buses. This project will eventually prepare the site for 175 electric buses with a phased approach to construction pending funding availability. Appropriate phasing will be determined during the design phase of this project, and the charging facility will be constructed directly adjacent to the current Meadowlands Bus Garage. NJ TRANSIT's preferred project will incorporate clean energy vehicle charging options to enable the agency to provide a sustainable, resilient, and reliable energy supply for bus charging and site operations. The charging canopy infrastructure will allow the facility to operate BEBs at this site while the current facility provides maintenance. The project will also incorporate upgrades to the current facility for Battery Electric Bus maintenance. This project complements the Low- or No-Emissions Grant program application detailed above.

These applications meet and exceed critical FTA factors, such as reducing energy consumption, harmful emissions, and direct carbon emissions while improving safety since lower emissions decrease health problems associated with pollutants. They fulfill NJ TRANSIT's strategic goals of delivering a high-quality customer experience and powering a strong and fairer New Jersey. Additionally, support from the FTA will position NJ TRANSIT to implement clean energy technology and deploy BEBs, advance its commitment to meeting the State of New Jersey's ambitious zero-emissions bus deployment goals, and promote reducing energy consumption and emissions from the transportation sector.

I fully support their Low- or No-Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program FY 2024 applications, which the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made possible. I thank you in advance for your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pascrell Jr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress