



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

We Work Relentlessly to Help Businesses **Connect, Grow and Thrive.**

April 5, 2023

Secretary Buttigieg
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Program Management
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FTA FY2023 Low or No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities Programs – Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) FTA Low or No (Low-No) Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program application titled Blue Waters, Green Buses: Advancing Clean Transit in the Great Lakes State. Under this project, MDOT and its local subrecipient transit partners will purchase battery-electric and hydrogen zero-emission buses (ZEBs) and low-emission buses, replacing diesel, gasoline and propane buses to provide cleaner transportation across the state. MDOT also proposes the construction and installation of the charging and fueling infrastructure necessary to power the ZEBs and low-emission buses, and the building of new facilities to support the vehicles and the infrastructure. This project will serve rural and urban regions and will enable each of the subrecipient agencies to further their success in reducing fleet emissions while expanding safe and secure transit options for their communities to further position Michigan as a leader in clean transportation.

This letter serves as formal indication of support of the Capital Area Transportation Authority's (CATA) efforts to procure zero-emission buses as a subrecipient transit partner on MDOT's application for funding. As CATA's community partner, the Chamber encourages the movement toward sustainable business practices that better serve the needs of our region's citizens and communities. We applaud CATA's decision to transition its entire fleet to zero-emission by 2035. This will bring cleaner air to neighborhoods throughout the tri-county region by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to award funding to MDOT through the Low-No Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program for the deployment of low- and zero-emission vehicles and the infrastructure and facilities to support them as this will remove polluting vehicles from our roadways, and help communities eliminate the health and environmental risks from carbon emissions. It is our hope that CATA's proposed electric buses will be a point of pride as our community takes proactive steps to limit emissions.

Furthermore, the Chamber is proud to support MDOT's plans to bring clean transportation to Michigan. This is an important piece of creating environmental equity for the community by improving public health and mitigating environmental degradation. If you require additional information about our support for MDOT's proposal, please reach out by phone or email listed below.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman
President & CEO
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce