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May 6, 2016

The Honorable Victor Mendez
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Deputy Secretary:

I am writing to draw your attention to three grant applications by Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) that would improve public transit service in Monterey County, California:

Buses and Bus Facilities Program

- ***Improving Transit Facilities for Rural California-*** Under its proposal, MST would construct a new maintenance facility in the rural area of Monterey County. The project would improve the transit system's efficiency by reducing unnecessary deadhead trips thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- ***Transit System Improvement Project of Monterey County-*** MST would replace 9 diesel buses that have exhausted their FTA-defined "useful life" with newer, more efficient buses.

Low or No Emissions Program

- ***Eliminating Emissions in California's Central Coast-*** Nearly all existing full-size diesel buses operating in Salinas would be replaced with new all-electric, zero-emission vehicles that can charge wirelessly to extend battery range and improve operating efficiencies. The project significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions in a disadvantaged community.

MST provides transit bus service to an area that stretches more than 150 miles; a distance comparable to that between Washington DC and Philadelphia. In 2015, MST provided more than 4 million passenger boardings. Moreover, MST is a participant in the Small Transit Intensive Cities program, traditionally scoring very high on the program criteria. Their record of providing

higher levels of transit service and carrying more passengers than comparable or larger areas demonstrates efficient use of scarce Federal resources, which is also reflected in their pending Buses and Bus Facilities and LoNo grant applications.

The merits of the application are outstanding and deserve the Department's careful review. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and the last name "Farr" clearly distinguishable.

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

SF/aa