



**DOWNTOWN
LONG BEACH
ALLIANCE**

August 23, 2017

Mr. Matthew Welbes
Executive Director
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Long Beach Transit's Bus Replacement Project

Dear Mr. Welbes:

On behalf of the Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA), representing more than 1,600 businesses and 4,000 commercial and residential property owners within the two Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Downtown Long Beach, we express our support for Long Beach Transit's (LBT) FY2017 Buses and Buses Facilities Infrastructure Investment Project (5339(b)) grant application.

LBT's 30-foot battery electric bus project presents a unique and innovative opportunity for the deployment of advanced propulsion technologies, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a move away from the reliance on fossil fuels. This is not only an important goal for LBT, but one that is shared across Downtown Long Beach and the greater Long Beach area.

Given its proximity to a number of public and sustainable transportation options such as the Metro Blue Line, LBT, and secured bike lanes, Downtown is witnessing several Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) residential projects. LBT battery electric buses would be consistent with these projects and guidelines set forth in the City's Downtown (Development) Plan.

The proposed project would replace five of LBT's existing buses with five 30-foot, zero-emission battery-electric transit buses. Thus, complementing LBT's fleet of 40-foot battery electric buses that were introduced in March 2017. The proposed buses would also be in keeping with the scale of our Downtown corridors.

To the benefit of our Downtown community, LBT has long been committed to using alternative fuels to improve air quality in the region, and active in deploying new technologies that would help further these goals. The proposed project would not only meet LBT's alternative fuel and bus replacement goals, but would also promote the use of these exciting and innovative technologies throughout the region, the State of California, and throughout the United States.

Thank you for your consideration of Long Beach Transit's application for this essential project.

Sincerely,

Kraig Kojian
President & CEO

cc: DLBA Board of Directors