

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

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Contra Costa County



Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 655-2075

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Toks Omishakin
Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for County Connection's Grant Application for 2024 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program; Solar Supported Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet and Service Modernization Project

Dear Secretary Omishakin,

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our strong support for County Connection's application to the 2024 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program for the Solar Supported Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet and Service Modernization Project.

This project will fund the critical infrastructure upgrades and service improvements to enable County Connection to meet the requirements and commitments from the California Air Resources Board's Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulations and County Connection's own Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan. The construction and installation of solar panels and complimentary battery storage will prepare County Connection for the energy demands of zero emission vehicle charging and support the phased purchase of up to 27 Zero Emission Vehicles that will provide enhanced and optimized service along selected corridors that integrate with expanded BART frequencies and other existing transit service, including Amtrak.

This project directly addresses the following TIRCP's policy objectives by:

- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions:** By reducing fine particulate pollution from diesel tail pipe emissions, the project will improve overall air quality at County Connection's maintenance facility (located in a disadvantaged community (DAC)) and throughout the eleven jurisdictions served by County Connection, including direct benefits to the nearby DACs located in Martinez and Concord.
- **Expand and improve transit service to increase ridership:** New, zero emission vehicles will provide optimized service that increase speeds along corridors. New vehicles will be equipped with GTFS travel information and contactless payment technology, and potentially transit signal priority in response to many ongoing corridor studies.
- **Integrate services of the state's various rail and transit operations:** New, zero emissions vehicles will run service design to integrate with expanded BART frequencies and regular Amtrak service in Martinez and other existing transit services, including those of neighboring agencies such as Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority (ECCTA), and the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA).

- **Improve safety:** By funding and investing in new Zero Emission Vehicles and fueling technology, the project will aid in maintaining a state of good repair and potentially provide energy in the event of a power outage to meet emergency response demands. Efforts toward improved transit service along selected corridors will also improve rider and nonrider safety by emphasizing improved service frequencies and bus stop environments that address accessibility, increase visibility, and provide shelter from increasingly extreme heat affecting transit riders.

By reducing air pollution and improving public transit access, the project will provide a direct and meaningful benefit to Central Contra Costa County, especially residents living in DACs, by connecting transit riders to employment opportunities, essential services, and recreation.

We believe the Solar Supported Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet and Service Modernization Project is a transformative initiative that aligns perfectly with TIRCP's goals. We urge you to give this application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



FEDERAL D. GLOVER

Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Contra Costa County, Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee

Warren Lai, Director – Public Works

John Kopchik, Director – Conservation and Development

Mark Watts, Smith, Watts & Hartmann