

APPENDIX C: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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Mayor LaToya Cantrell, City of New Orleans

Governor John Bell Edwards, State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development

Lt Governor Billy Nungesser, State of Louisiana

State Representative Mandie Landry, Louisiana House District 91

State Representative Matthew Willard, Louisiana House District 97

State Representative Aimee Freeman, Louisiana House District 98

State Representative Candace Newell, Louisiana House District 99

U.S. Representative Troy Carter, Louisiana 2nd Congressional District

Senator Bill Cassidy, Louisiana U.S. Senator

Greater New Orleans, Inc.

New Orleans Business Alliance

Committee for a Better New Orleans

Ride New Orleans

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

May 23, 2022

Ms. Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT – NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY’S (RTA)
REQUEST FOR FY 2022 BUS AND BUS FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM**

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority’s (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

RTA is the public transportation provider for the City of New Orleans and the City of Kenner. As the largest public transportation provider in the New Orleans-Metairie, Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Area, the RTA operates 34 bus routes, five streetcar routes, two ferry routes, and ADA paratransit service. Bus and streetcar service include six routes with peak-service frequencies of 15 minutes or better, as well as 12 routes that operate 24 hours/day. RTA's service area is relatively dense, covering more than 450,000 people and 200,000 jobs over a land area of about 185 square miles.

The RTA is requesting funding for the purchase of 23 low-floor diesel busses. This funding request, leveraged with other state and local funding streams, will allow the agency to retire 40 vehicles which will reach their useful lifespan by 2024. This large retirement contingent is a result of RTA’s unique circumstances due to the complete destruction of its fleet in 2005, caused by the catastrophic post-Hurricane Katrina levee-failure flood.

The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,



LaToya Cantrell
Mayor, City of New Orleans



Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

May 20, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority**

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Office of the Secretary
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
ph: 225-379-1200 | fx: 225-379-1851

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary

May 23, 2022

Nuria Fernandez, Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program New Orleans RTA

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn D. Wilson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.
Secretary

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State of Louisiana

BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 44243
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-4243
(225) 342-7009

May 23, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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This funding request, leveraged with other state and local funding streams that will allow the agency to retire 40 vehicles which will reach their useful lifespan by 2024. This large retirement contingent is a result of RTA's unique circumstances due to the complete destruction of its fleet in 2005, caused by the catastrophic post-Hurricane Katrina levee-failure flood.

The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025. Thank you for your consideration for this important project. If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Billy Nungesser".

Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor

WHN/jt

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



2725 South Broad Street
New Orleans, LA 70125
hse091@legis.la.gov
Tel: (504) 826-2570
Fax: (504) 826-2571

Committees:
Ways and Means
Judiciary
Natural Resources
and Environment

MANDIE LANDRY State Representative - District 91

May 31, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

*RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority*

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

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The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mandie Landry
Representative Mandie Landry
District 91
New Orleans

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNO TRAC Building
Room 212
2000 Lakeshore Drive
New Orleans, LA 70148

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Committees:
Ways and Means
Insurance
Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs
Joint Legislative Committee on Capital
Outlay

Matthew Willard
State Representative - District 97

May 26, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Willard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Willard
Louisiana House of Representatives, District 97

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. Box 850901
New Orleans, LA 70185
Email: hse098@legis.la.gov
Office: 504.861.1614



COMMITTEES:

Appropriations
Education
Retirement

Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
Legislative Audit Advisory Council

AIMEE ADATTO FREEMAN **State Representative ~ District 98**

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 28, 2022

RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aimee A. Freeman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

New Orleans Lakefront Airport
Terminal Building, Suite 149
6001 Stars and Stripes
New Orleans, LA 70126
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Fax: 504.240.3437
Email: hse099@legis.la.gov



COMMITTEES:
Commerce
House and Governmental Affairs
Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs
House Executive Committee

CANDACE N. NEWELL
State Representative ~ District 99

May 24, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

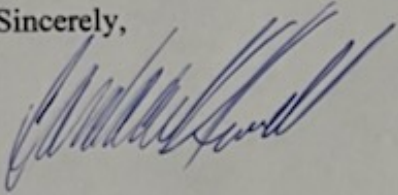
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The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Candace N. Newell", written in a cursive style.

State Representative Candace N. Newell

TROY A. CARTER
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:

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MATERIALS

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
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UNDERSERVED, AGRICULTURAL, AND RURAL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CONTRACTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

May 20, 2022

506 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6636

DISTRICT OFFICES:
650 POYDRAS STREET
SUITE 2435
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130
(504) 288-3777

3401 GENERAL DE GAULLE DRIVE
SUITE 100
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114
(504) 381-3970

200 DERBIGNY STREET
SUITE 3200
GRETN, LA 70053
(504) 381-3999

125 REGALA PARK ROAD
SUITE K135
RESERVE, LA 70084

6803 PRESS DRIVE
SUITE 166
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70126

801 HARDING BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70807
(225) 726-2070

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

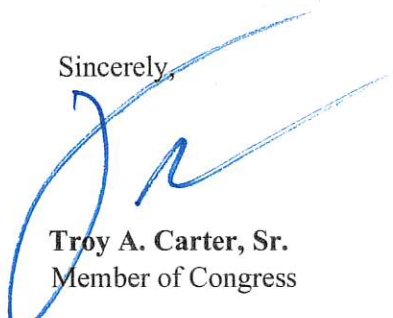
As the U.S. Representative for the Second Congressional District of Louisiana, I am contacting you today to provide my full support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

RTA is the public transportation provider for the City of New Orleans and the City of Kenner. As the largest public transportation provider in the New Orleans-Metairie, Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Area, the RTA operates 34 bus routes, five streetcar routes, two ferry routes, and an ADA paratransit service. Bus and streetcar service includes six routes with peak-service frequencies of 15 minutes or better, as well as 12 routes that operate 24 hours/day. RTA's service area is relatively dense, covering more than 450,000 people and 200,000 jobs over a land area of about 185 square miles.

The RTA is requesting funding for the purchase of 23 low-floor diesel buses. This funding request, leveraged with other state and local funding streams, will allow the agency to retire 40 vehicles that will reach their useful lifespan by 2024. This large retirement contingent is a result of RTA's unique circumstances due to the complete destruction of its fleet in 2005, caused by the catastrophic post-Hurricane Katrina levee-failure flood.

Again, I fully support RTA's application for funding to purchase new vehicles that will put the agency on a strong path toward a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero-emission vehicles starting in 2025. I thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
SUITE SH-520
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5824

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Sec. Buttigieg:

It has recently come to my attention that the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority is applying for funding from the Bus and Bus Facilities grant program. They are requesting \$9.9 million to replace vehicles in their fleet.

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority plans to use the funds to replace 23 diesel buses purchased in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and have reached the end of their useful life. They anticipate providing a cost share of \$1.6 million towards these 23 buses. The project would complement plans to replace 17 end-of-life buses using state funding.

I appreciate your department's consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

BC/ME



10 PARISHES
Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard
St. Charles
St. James
St. John the Baptist
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

May 27, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

On behalf of Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.), I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program Grant application for funding to purchase new 23 fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of its current fleet, originally acquired to replace a fleet lost to Hurricane Katrina. These buses are now showing signs of aging, from billowing black smoke to breakdowns. GNO, Inc., as the regional economic development organization for the ten parishes of Southeast Louisiana, recognizes the improvements to economic mobility and reliable workforce connections that the selection of this application will enable.

RTA is the public transportation provider for the City of New Orleans and the City of Kenner. As the largest public transportation provider in the Greater New Orleans Region, the RTA operates 34 bus routes, five streetcar routes, two ferry routes, and ADA paratransit service. Bus and streetcar service include six routes with peak-service frequencies of 15 minutes or better, as well as 12 routes that operate 24 hours/day. RTA's service area is dense, covering more than 450,000 people and 200,000 jobs over a land area of about 185 square miles.

The RTA is requesting funding for the purchase of 23 low-floor diesel buses. This funding request, leveraged with other state and local funding streams, will cumulatively modernize 40 vehicles set to reach their useful lifespan by 2024. This large retirement contingent is a result of RTA's unique circumstances due to the complete destruction of its fleet in 2005, caused by the catastrophic post-Hurricane Katrina levee-failure flood.

This September, RTA will implement New Links, its network re-design which will provide greater frequency of service and greater coverage of formerly underserved and disconnected communities. Hence, alongside implementation of this equity-forward plan, the acquisition of these new vehicles will represent a comprehensive renaissance of public transportation in Greater New Orleans. Looking ahead, this grant will put RTA on a strong path for more consistent future fleet replacement and begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025. Thank you for your consideration of this application and supporting this transformation of public transportation.

Sincerely,

Michael Hecht
President & CEO

May 20, 2022

Nuria Fernandez, Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority**

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

On behalf of the New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA), please accept this letter of support for the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase 23 new fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of its useful life in 2024 and continue operations, while implementing plans to reach the RTA's goal of transitioning 75% of its fleet to low/no emission vehicles by 2030.

Please note that NOLABA approaches all of its work through the lens of our very own tagline: **Culture. Equity. Prosperity.** Our work aims to ensure that all New Orleanians have the opportunity to preserve their culture while working toward a more equitable and prosperous future for themselves and for generations to come. Access to reliable and safe public transportation plays a significant role in our efforts to achieve better outcomes measured by metrics such as health and wealth disparities amongst New Orleans residents.

As one of our valued partners, the RTA is the public transportation provider for the City of New Orleans and the City of Kenner. RTA is the largest public transportation provider in the New Orleans-Metairie, Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Area. It operates 34 bus routes, five streetcar routes, two ferry routes, and ADA paratransit service. Bus and streetcar service includes six routes with peak-service frequencies of 15 minutes or better, as well as 12 routes that operate 24 hours/day. The RTA's service area is relatively dense, covering more than 450,000 people and 200,000 jobs over a land area of about 185 square miles.

It is NOLABA's understanding that the RTA is requesting funding for the purchase of 23 low-floor diesel busses. This funding request, leveraged with other state and local funding streams, will allow the agency to retire 40 vehicles that are anticipated to reach their useful lifespan by 2024. This large retirement contingent is a result of RTA's unique circumstances due to the complete destruction of its fleet in 2005, caused by the catastrophic post-Hurricane Katrina levee-failure flood. The purchase of these new vehicles will put the agency on a strong path for a more consistent future fleet replacement that will begin a significant transition to a low to zero emission vehicles starting in 2025.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

Jeanette R. Weiland, Senior Vice President of Bio, Innovation, & Special Projects
New Orleans Business Alliance



May 20, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590



**RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program New Orleans
Regional Transit Authority**

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase 23 new fixed- route vehicles. Committee for a Better New Orleans works to create a more equitable, sustainable, and thriving City in partnership with community, civic, and business leaders. This funding will advance our vision as it would allow the RTA to sustain safe and efficient transportation services for residents who rely on it, while retiring a large portion of the fleet that will reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

Nellie Catzen | Executive Director

COMMITTEE FOR A
BETTER
NEW ORLEANS

PO Box 791570, New Orleans LA 70179

   @betternola | cbno.org

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2022 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program
New Orleans Regional Transit Authority - May 20, 2022

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I am contacting you today in support of the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's (RTA) FY 22 Bus and Bus Facilities Program grant application for funding to purchase 23 new fixed-route vehicles. This funding will allow the RTA to retire a large portion of the fleet that will soon reach the end of their useful life in 2024.

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Thank you for your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,



Courtney Jackson

Executive Director

Ride New Orleans