

LIZZIE FLETCHER
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE,
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April 12, 2023

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Office of the Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County FY 2023 Renewable Natural Gas Path to Zero Emissions Grant Application

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I write regarding the Low or No-Emission Grant application that the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Path to Zero Emissions by 2030 project. This project will advance METRO net-zero emissions operations goal by purchasing 40 RNG buses and refueling equipment and building a fueling station at a preexisting operating facility.

With ridership numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels, METRO has begun to resume its retirement of aging buses. Currently, supply chain issues are causing delays for the delivery of battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses. When combined with the latest natural gas engines, RNG buses are near-zero emission vehicles certified by the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board. Compared to diesel, RNG reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent and reduces tailpipe emissions by 90 percent.

If awarded these funds, METRO can purchase 40 new near-zero emission natural gas vehicles to update its fleet. The funds will also be used to purchase natural gas fuel and build a new refueling station. The refueling station will be located at METRO's Hiram Clarke facility, a location that will prioritize deploying these new near-zero emission vehicles to routes serving historically disadvantaged communities.

The RNG Path to Zero Emissions by 2030 project ensures METRO can meet its emissions goals and create a cleaner and healthier transit service for Houston residents. I hope this request is given all due consideration and a timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lizzie Fletcher".

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress