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

September 27, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of the Riverside Transit Agency's (RTA) application to the Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) competitive grant program to fund the development of the Improving Connectivity to Public Transportation: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Bus Stop Enhancement Plan (Plan).

RTA provides public transportation for a 2,500-square-mile service area, one of the largest in the nation, covering urban, small urban and rural areas. The Plan will evaluate RTA's massive service area and identify aging bus stops that require modifications or enhancements to meet ADA requirements. The Plan will identify necessary improvements to these stops, including ADA compliant curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and ramps. The Plan is the first step towards improving hundreds of stops in RTA's service area – RTA estimates that 290 bus stops will be identified for essential improvements.

RTA is committed to providing safe, reliable and accessible public transportation to everyone including individuals with disabilities. The enhancement of non-ADA compliant bus stops will remove barriers and ensure safe, equitable access to public transportation for all. The population in Riverside County is expected to grow by 1.6 million by 2050, and the region will experience a significant surge in traffic congestion, leading to heightened emissions and increased air pollution. Increasing access will result in improved connectivity, reduced congestion and sustainable growth across the region.

Again, I offer my support for RTA's RCN Grant Application for the Improving Connectivity to Public Transportation: Americans with Disabilities Act Bus Stop Enhancement Plan. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Benjamin Hong Starr (Benjamin.HongStarr@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takano".

Mark Takano
Member of Congress