

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez  
Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

We write to express our support for the University of Maryland – College Park’s application to the Federal Transit Administration’s Low-No Emission Program. The proposed project, titled *35 Battery Electric Transit Buses, Infrastructure, and Charging Stations for the University of Maryland*, will enable the university to replace 35 aging diesel transit buses with battery-powered electric buses, reducing fuel use by 99 percent, greenhouse gas emissions by 78 percent, and other pollutants by 99 percent. The Low-No Program offers the university an ideal opportunity to scale up its investment in zero-emission transit and associated infrastructure.

The University of Maryland – College Park boasts one of the largest university-operated transit systems in the country. Shuttle-UM serves one million riders each year, providing valuable transit connections to three Maryland counties and the District of Columbia. This system impacts commuters along major National Capital Region corridors, including I-270, I-95, the Capital Beltway, and US Route 1, reaching a population of more than six million. Additionally, Shuttle-UM provides direct linkages to numerous regional bus and rail networks. If funded, the zero-emission fleet will generate direct benefits to disadvantaged communities identified by the USDOT explorer tool and provide direct transit access to 20 historically disadvantaged communities.

This project will significantly reduce direct carbon emissions from public transit, serve President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, and advance regional climate action goals. Importantly, and as emphasized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, this project serves our nation’s climate action interests, represents an investment in historically disadvantaged communities, and provides good-paying union jobs such as bus drivers and maintenance technicians. In total, approximately 150 unionized staff years will be served by this project.

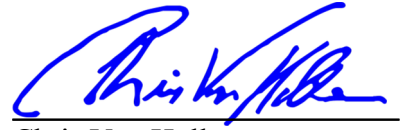
We strongly support the University of Maryland – College Park’s efforts to leverage Low-No Program funds to transition the Shuttle-UM fleet from diesel to electric power, and we respectfully request that the Federal Transit Administration provide full and fair consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



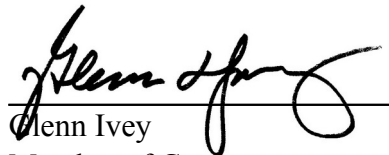
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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress