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www.solanocounty.com

February 18, 2022

Toks Omishakin Secretary of the California Transportation Commission 915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350 B Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE:** A Letter of Support for Solano Countywide Transit Electrification and Operational Improvements

Dear Secretary Omishakin,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support of the Solano Transportation Authority's (STA) grant application under the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for Solano Countywide Transit Electrification and Operational Improvements.

The funding of STA's innovative Countywide Transit Electrification and Operational Improvements will guarantee that Solano's five (5) transit operators will have all the infrastructure required to fully convert to zero-emission operations. The proposed quick delivery of these improvements will take place before 2024, ensuring a rapid transition away from fossil fuels.

The operational improvements planned for SolanoExpress will be delivered in coordination with Caltrans' planned Complete Streets project along SR29 in Vallejo. This community-supported project will conduct a road diet along SR29, provide Class IV bike lanes, and improve pedestrian amenities. While Caltrans' project scope does not currently include transit improvements, an award from TIRCP would provide:

- Transit Signal Priority at 15 intersections
- Optimal Signal Timing along the corridor for Bus Operations
- Queue Jump opportunities

STA's application also includes funding for network integration for the development of a Countywide Safe Routes to Transit Plan, which will provide a comprehensive list of capital projects to improve access to regional transit facilities.

This application is being submitted in partnership with all five local transit operators: Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST) and Solano County Transit (SolTrans), Vacaville City Coach, Dixon Readi-Ride, and Rio Vista Delta Breeze.

These improvements are essential for Solano County and the State overall. With increases in wildfires and climate-related catastrophes, the urgency for transitioning away from fossil fuels has increased and the STA and their member agencies are ready for the electrification of their

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transit fleets. With the availability of the SolanoExpress regional bus service, two Capital Corridor train stations, a San Francisco Bay Ferry terminal, and direct connections to BART and Sacramento Regional Transit, Solano County can make a significant impact on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction. STA's vision provides an opportunity to fund a one-time investment towards a quick-delivery transition to zero-emission transit operations.

I respectfully request your support for Solano Transportation Authority's TIRCP application for Solano Countywide Electrification and Operational Improvements.

Sincerely,

John M. Vasquez,

District 4 Supervisor and Chair

Solano County Board of Supervisors

## CC:

Solano County Board of Supervisors Solano Transportation Authority Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate, SYASL Partners, Inc.