

Jack Cleland, President
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April 16, 2024

Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Program Management
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: FY 2024 Low or No Emission Grant Program (FTA-2024-003-TPM-LWNO), and
the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities FTA-2024-004-TPM-BUS) Competitive Program
CARTA Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) Expansion and Electrification Project

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer:

I am writing to you as the President of, and on behalf of, the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association ("CNA" or "we"), which consists of residents living south of Broad Street on the peninsula of Charleston, SC.

The CNA is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) and their grant application for the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) Expansion and Electrification Project. The CNA Board understands that grant funds would be used to purchase six (6) 30' battery electric buses and two (2) on-route induction charging units to support the expansion of DASH service in the historic peninsula of Charleston, SC.

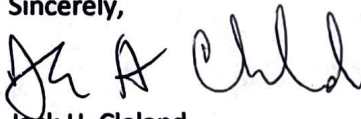
These purchases, made with the grant funds, would provide the additional buses and charging infrastructure needed to restore service to pre-Covid levels, as well as to provide the resources needed to increase service frequency and expand the DASH service area in downtown Charleston, north of our neighborhood. This service expansion would improve access and connectivity to historically disadvantaged communities, the region's hospitality workforce, employees and patients in the Charleston Medical District, students at the College of Charleston, MUSC and Citadel, and many major tourist attractions. The project would also support local and agency goals to reduce the impacts of climate change by supporting the transition of CARTA's DASH fleet to zero emission battery electric buses and expanding transit service in the Peninsula to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle trips.

The CNA Board understands that these grant funds, and the purchases made with them, will not result in any CARTA/DASH buses traveling into or through our neighborhood, i.e., south of Broad Street on the peninsula. We believe that this result is appropriate given the nature of the neighborhood and its streets.

We support the request for the grant (if and for so long as its use is consistent with the current plan to *not* add any buses in our neighborhood), because it: will facilitate access to and from our neighborhood for commuters; will improve connectivity between citizens and the many city resources downtown, north of our neighborhood; and will be an important step in reducing the city's emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of this regionally significant project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack H. Cleland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" and last name "Cleland" clearly distinguishable.

Jack H. Cleland

President, Charlestowne Neighborhood Association

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