



March 22, 2021

Office of Program Management
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Arizona Forward Letter of Support

Dear Amy Volz:

On behalf of Arizona Forward, I am pleased to express our full support and encouragement for the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro's Battery Electric Bus Initial Investment. Valley Metro has conducted extensive research on transit electrification and both the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro are ready to make this initial investment for the betterment of our community. The two agencies have determined that electric buses can be successful in our region on select routes, and Arizona Forward is supportive of the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro's intent to lead our region toward transit electrification.

Battery electric bus technology has tremendous potential for improving our region. Maricopa County has been in non-attainment for ozone and PM10 for years, and the operation of zero emission buses would be advantageous to helping our county control these harmful pollutants. Operating electric buses in the Phoenix Area would also be beneficial in mitigating our global warming emissions. Considering today's sources of electricity generation, electric buses are already more environmentally friendly than traditional buses when accounting for the energy used to charge the bus. Statewide utilities in Arizona have committed to being renewable and carbon free by 2050, which means that as 2050 draws closer, electric buses will show tremendous environmental superiority in comparison to traditional buses.

Lastly, the operation of electric buses supports city and regional goals. The three major cities in which the electric buses would serve, Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa, are creating or have created climate action plans which support transportation electrification. The City of Phoenix specifically has made strong commitments to climate action by joining the C40 Climate Agreement (a commitment to deliver the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at a local level). While a government authored statewide climate action plan does not yet exist, there are regional efforts such as the Arizona Forward Sustainability Roadmap and the Arizona Transportation Electrification Plan to engage regional stakeholders and advance carbon neutrality at a larger scale. The City of Phoenix and Valley Metro have been active participants in both of these planning efforts.

Arizona Forward appreciates your time and consideration of the City of Phoenix and Valley Metro's electric bus programs, and we hope that you will look favorably at their application.

Sincerely,

Lori Singleton, President & CEO