

# CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 7, 2023

Peter Buttigieg  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation write in support of the grant application submitted by the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) for their Low or No Emission Grant Program application as funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). This grant, FTA-2023-002-TPM-LWNO, will fund the deployment of hybrid electric buses.

With routes in Taos, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, San Juan, and Santa Fe Counties, NCRTD is the public transit provider responsible for operating in northern New Mexico. Covering approximately 10,000 square miles and serving a regional population of 280,000 people, NCRTD ensures services are provided to the communities and Pueblos in the region.<sup>1</sup> This includes free service rides across all routes for veterans, on-demand mobility service, bicycle racks, and Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit and providing access for tourists who visit the area's many cultural and historical attractions.

If awarded, NCRTD will purchase and deploy three hybrid electric buses to provide expanded public transportation service for the residents and visitors of Taos County, New Mexico. These hybrid buses will replace the fleet of fossil fuel-powered vehicles. Deploying hybrid buses in place of fully fossil fuel-powered vehicles will reduce energy consumption and harmful emissions that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncrtd.org/about-ncrtd/jim-west-regional-transit-center/>

includes greenhouse gases and particulates, lower operation costs and reduce maintenance needs, and provide rural communities with commuter transportation access.<sup>2</sup>

Members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation proudly support the application submitted by NCRTD regarding their Low or No Emission Grant Program application as funded by DOT and we request that you give their application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

/s/ Teresa Leger Fernández  
United States Representative

/s/ Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/ev>