Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
Charlottesville/Albemarle MPO

Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
POB 1505, 401 E. Water St, Charlottesville, VA 22902 www.tjpdc.org
(434) 979-7310 phone • info@tjpdc.org email

MEMORANDUM

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board
From: Sarah Simba, TJPDC/CA-MPO Regional Planner II
Date: June 25, 2025
Subject: FY25 Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) Low or No Emission Grant Program for Buses and Bus Facilities: Funding Application – 5339 (c)

Purpose:
The City of Charlottesville intends to submit a FY25 grant application for the expansion of the Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) maintenance and operations facility and seeks a Resolution of Support from the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO.

Background:
The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity on May 14, 2025, for the Low or No Emission competitive grant program with a submission deadline of July 14, 2025. Approximately $1.1 billion in funding is available to support the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, as well as the acquisition, construction, and leasing of necessary supporting infrastructure.

In 2023, the City of Charlottesville affirmed its commitment to sustainability by setting a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. As part of this effort, Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) has completed a feasibility study and developed detailed transition plans to guide the shift to zero-emission technologies by 2040. As identified in the study, significant modifications to the existing CAT facility will be required to achieve zero-emission goals. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Charlottesville have committed funding to advance final design on the facility modifications in 2025, and CAT is currently undergoing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process for the modifications.

CAT is committed to advancing this project if awarded funds through the FTA Low or No Emissions grant program. The City of Charlottesville's carbon neutrality and zero-emission goals are consistent with CA-MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan adopted in May 2024.

Recommendations:

CA-MPO Technical Committee: Staff recommend that the CA-MPO Technical Committee members make a motion to recommend to the CA-MPO Policy Board to provide a resolution of support for the City of Charlottesville's application to the FTA Low or No Emission Grant Program – 5339(c).
CA-MPO Policy Board: Staff recommend that the CA-MPO Policy Board make a motion to provide a resolution of support for the City of Charlottesville's application to the FTA Low or No Emission Grant Program – 5339(c).

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CA-MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee: Staff recommend that the CA-MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee make a motion to recommend that the CA-MPO Policy Board provide a resolution of support for the City of Charlottesville's application to the FTA Low or No Emission Grant Program – 5339(c).

If there are any questions or comments, please contact Taylor Jenkins at tjenkins@tjpdc.org and Sarah Simba at ssimba@tjpdc.org.