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March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for VIA Second Maintenance and Operations Facility Planning in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority, located at 123 N. Medina St., San Antonio, Texas 78207. The funding would be used to cover costs associated with the public involvement, planning, engineering, and environmental studies leading to land acquisition for the Second Maintenance and Operations Facility.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it facilitates a future second phase of the project (not part of this request) to construct a maintenance facility and operating facility, which is an eligible activity under 49 USC Chapter 53. The proposed facility, with a design at ultimate development to handle up to 300 bus vehicles, with the full range of support services necessary to maintain such an investment in vehicles. VIA has been utilizing the same space for operations and maintenance since 1947. Today, the VIA bus yard contains over 500 vehicles with a mix of 40 foot, 60 foot, and some non-revenue vehicles all maintained and dispatched out of one single yard. With expansion limitations surrounding the existing facility, VIA needs a second operating and maintenance facility to be able to expand service, provide redundancy for service across the 1,213 square mile service area, and develop a facility that can more easily handle the shifting technology and vehicle types involved with providing modern multi-modal mass transit.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress