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August 13, 2021

Felicia James
Associate Administrator for Planning and Environment
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, East Building
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. James:

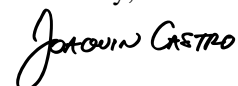
It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA), which is seeking a New Starts rating for its Advanced Rapid Transit (ART) North/South Corridor Project in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5309 Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program. The purpose of the ART North/South Corridor Project is to develop transit improvements that provide highly reliable, frequent, and direct service between key activity centers in San Antonio, Texas. The Project addresses numerous needs in our community, including the following identified through the planning and public engagement process:

- Strengthen the interconnected multimodal network of transit, air travel, driving, cycling, and walking, to improve access between key regional centers in the corridor;
- Create competitive travel choices that ensure reliability and speed, to support growing employment centers; and
- Support growth by improving equity, housing, and transportation choices by linking neighborhoods to major centers of economic activity.

As shown by our community in November 2020 with an overwhelming public support approving additional funding to go to VIA to help support this project, and others in the Keep SA Moving framework, I am glad to offer my support to VIA for this project. This project will improve multi-modal connectivity and increase accessibility and equity for our most vulnerable riders along the corridor. This infrastructure investment is necessary to promote long-term continued economic growth and increase mobility options in the area and do so in an environmentally friendly manner helping to reduce barriers to opportunity and automobile dependency.

Thank you for your fair and full consideration of VIA's proposal. Do not hesitate to contact my Grants Coordinator, Jasmine Rodriguez, at (210) 348-8216 or by email at TX20.Grants@mail.house.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress