8 August 2017

Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Subject: Deployment of Electric Bus Fleet at Martha’s Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support for the ‘Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program’ application being submitted by Martha’s Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA).

VTA is the first transit agency in Massachusetts to take the lead in replacing its diesel transportation fleet of around 32 buses to electric. VTA plans to allocate resources available through this grant to meet the incremental cost of purchasing two 35’ electric buses, installing inductive charging units and establishing a 250kW/500 kWh energy storage system at Edgartown. The overall project that includes battery storage in combination with solar energy will allow VTA to be resilient during emergencies like power outages, and storms.

This funding will help VTA accelerate the switch to a zero-emission transit service and serve as a model for the state. VTA’s electric bus project will not only reduce air pollution and improve public health, it will lower fuel and maintenance costs while offering residents and visitors a clean, quieter ride. In addition, this project is an important step forward to cut our reliance on fossil fuels, and bring about deeper reductions in carbon emissions.

We fully support VTA in their commitment to a clean energy transportation future. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Emily Norton
Chapter Director