

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0520

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Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves
Committee On Transportation And Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Santa Cruz METRO Bus Replacements Project in the surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, located at 110 Vernon St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The project is located in Santa Cruz, California.

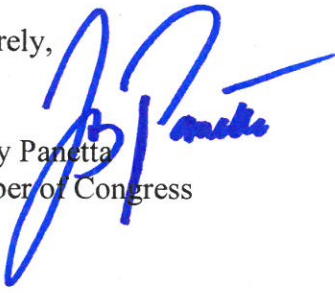
The funding is designated to enable Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) to replace one compressed natural gas (CNG) articulated bus and two 1998 diesel-fueled buses with new CNG buses. In May of 2017, the METRO Board of Directors adopted a resolution to set a goal for achieving a fully zero-emission fleet by 2040 and to support a fleet management plan which phases out the purchase of CNG buses by 2030.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, surrounding community will benefit directly and indirectly from this replacement bus. This project benefits Monterey Bay area residents, regional transit passengers, METRO operations and supports FTA's goal to maintain rolling stock in a state of good repair. Removing a 2002-model CNG articulated bus and two 1998-model diesel-fueled buses from public transit service will deliver significant air quality improvements. The community benefits directly from improved air quality and a reduction in toxic diesel particulate emissions when a cleaner CNG fueled engine replaces a diesel-fueled engine. The three CNG buses will lower METRO's operating budget via lower maintenance costs, and CNG fuel, after accounting for the federal alternative fuel-tax credit, has proven to be less costly than the equivalent volume of diesel fuel. This project provides needed capital assistance to help achieve METRO's number-one capital improvement goal of replacing 23 obsolete buses.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JP Panetta", is written over the printed name and title.