



SIERRA CLUB

Connecticut Chapter
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November 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) application under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Bus and Bus Facilities Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2021

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 40,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, I write in support of the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Bus and Bus Facilities Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2021.

The Sierra Club is committed to solving the climate crisis with just and equitable solutions that will result in a healthy world for everyone. Transportation pollution in Connecticut is a serious problem for public health and our climate. According to the latest Greenhouse Gas Inventory¹ from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, accounting for 37.4% of emissions. Between 2014 and 2018, transportation sector emissions actually increased by 3 percent.

Transportation pollution also contributes to poor air quality in our state which is connected to acute and chronic respiratory problems such as asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and other lung diseases. These health issues disproportionately impact Black, Brown and low income communities.

Reducing emissions in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Stamford will improve local air quality for Connecticut's largest cities and will reduce climate-destroying greenhouse gas emissions; that's why we offer our support for the CTDOT's application for \$20.5 million to replace 22 existing diesel operated buses with state-of-the-art zero-emission battery electric buses (BEB) and chargers at four Connecticut transit service systems. CTDOT proposes to deploy the buses as follows:

- CTtransit Hartford Division - three (3) 40-foot New Flyer Xcelsior XE40 Battery Electric Buses;
- CTtransit Stamford Division - three (3) 40-foot New Flyer Xcelsior XE40 Battery Electric Buses;

¹ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GHG_Emissions_Inventory_2018.pdf

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- Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority - three (3) 40-foot New Flyer Xcelsior XE40 Battery Electric Buses and three (3) 35-foot New Flyer Xcelsior XE35 Battery Electric Buses; and
- CTtransit New Haven Division - ten (10) 40-foot New Flyer Xcelsior XE40 Battery Electric Buses.

Sierra Club Connecticut strongly encourages consideration of this project for funding through FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities Program. We look forward to this project deploying electric buses that will simultaneously address the climate crisis and the poor air quality disproportionately impacting environmental justice communities in our state.

Sincerely,

Samantha Dynowski
Sierra Club Connecticut