

August 20, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today to offer my strong support for Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's (ACCGov) application for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Opportunity (CFI) funding. This funding will provide vitally needed support to ACCov's Clean and Renewable Energy Plan goal to transition the community to electric energy sources by 2035, and to 100% clean and renewable sources by 2050. Athens-Clarke County is a growing community of nearly 130,000 residents and an additional 43,000 University of Georgia students, staff, and faculty. The grant will significantly expand the electric-vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure that serves the entire community, including providing additional access for moderate to low-income populations and disadvantaged communities. Project FAST - Fueling Athens' Sustainable Transportation - aims to create equitable access to a network of chargers throughout the community to ensure residents and visitors are always able to charge their vehicles near their homes or destinations.

Project FAST will advance local and regional initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases overall, and will help the community transition to zero-emission vehicles. Along with the reduction of range anxiety associated with electric vehicles, equity and sustainability are key components of the project through the strategic placement of chargers. Currently, there are 20 public EV charging sites in Athens, hosting 49 level 2 and 14 DC fast chargers. Of the 14 DC fast chargers, 11 are located on two of the 20 publically available sites.

Project FAST will add 20 DC and 38 Level 2 chargers at 14 sites, nearly doubling charging capacity. These sites are at a variety of locations throughout the community, including public parks, the airport, and the public library, to enable users to charge their vehicles "on the go." All but two of the proposed sites are publicly-owned, and 12 of the 14 sites serve CEJST-defined census tracts. Additionally, these chargers are located in close proximity to key quality of life destinations and residential units, and link to local and regional transit routes to support access to equitable and affordable zero-emission mobility for all.

[organization name] endorses this project and encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund of this project. [if you are interested in supporting the project in other ways – examples: educating constituents, promoting charging sites, etc. - you can add it here].

For these reasons, I urge you to support Athens-Clarke County's application for CFI grant Community Funds to expand its electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about my support for this crucial grant application.

Sincerely,