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HOUSTON TRANSTAR

6922 Katy Road, Houston TX 77024 | 713-881-3000 | www.HoustonTRANSTAR.org

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation (DOT)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Smart Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing as representative members of Houston TranStar, a long-standing partnership of four (4) public agencies that serves the Greater Houston Region, globally recognized for managing the southeast Texas transportation system and functioning as the primary coordination site for State, county and local agencies when responding to incidents and emergencies.

This partnership of 4 public agencies in Harris County, Texas includes the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), Harris County (County) and the City of Houston (City).

The mission of the TranStar Consortium is to provide coordinated, innovative transportation and emergency management services to the region.

Under our Strategic Plan, we recognize the value of cooperative innovation in connected infrastructure and plan to create an innovation development technical workgroup to direct the intake of agency-specific information regarding innovation initiatives and direct possible multi-agency cooperation.

We are committed to supporting TxDOT on a Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) Tactical Plan focusing on TxDOT intersections using connected vehicle technology adaptable to all modes of transportation that will be transferable to different jurisdictions. The Tactical Plan will focus on intersections of which there are all modes of transportation, addressing detection of the different modes and how to safely and efficiently navigate the intersections using innovative technology.

We thank you, sincerely, for your time, consideration and enduring commitment to delivering the world's leading transportation system for the American people and economy.

Signed this day, November 4, 2022, by the District Engineer (DE) for the TxDOT-Houston District and Executive Director (ED) for Houston TranStar.

DocuSigned by:
Eliza Paul
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Eliza C. Paul, P.E., District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation

DocuSigned by:
Brian Mason
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Brian Mason, Executive Director
Houston TranStar

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November 7, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), an agency of the State of Texas and member of The Texas A&M University System. For 70 years, TTI has addressed complex transportation challenges and opportunities with innovation, objectivity, and unmatched technical expertise. We are a diverse, interconnected group of 700 professionals, students, and support staff from 38 different countries. TTI staff are recognized state, national and international leaders known for their credibility, technical expertise, and reputation for objectivity. TTI also plays a key role in educating the next generation of transportation professionals, training students both in the laboratory and in the classroom. With expertise in engineering, planning, economics, policy, public engagement, landscape architecture, environmental sciences, data sciences, social sciences and more, TTI professionals are thought leaders in their fields. We commit to working with the Texas Department of Transportation Houston District (TxDOT) on the CAV Tactical Plan (CAVTP).

To support the project and its partners, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute commits to the following:

> TTI staff located in our Houston office as well as those at our headquarters at the Texas A&M University System RELLIS campus in Bryan, Texas will be available to provide the appropriate staffing resources to assist TxDOT throughout the duration of this project. TTI has developed a connected and automated vehicle (CAV) test bed at the RELLIS campus that is used to develop and test CAV applications and human-machine interfaces using vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) and infrastructure-to-vehicle (I2V) communication in a controlled environment. The test bed will leverage other automated vehicle expertise across the University in ground, aerial and subterranean applications. TTI has a more than 60-year history of working with the TxDOT Houston district on multiple locally based projects and has also worked with other local agencies that will partner with TxDOT in this important project. In addition to sharing experiences and knowledge from other CAV projects that TTI has already completed, our Houston based staff will focus on completing the independent evaluations of the TxDOT CAVTP. Funding support for TTI's assistance will be provided within existing and anticipated future interagency agreement between TTI's Houston office and TxDOT Houston District.

This commitment is new, specific, and measurable in the following ways:

> The Houston Region is unique in that all traffic management and emergency management functions are coordinated through Houston TranStar. Houston TranStar is a unique partnership of representatives from the City of Houston, Harris County, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, and the Texas Department of Transportation who share resources and exchange information under one roof to keep motorists informed, roadways clear and lives safe in the fourth most populated city in the United States. Established in 1993, the Houston TranStar brand is globally recognized for managing southeast Texas' transportation system and functioning as the primary coordination site for state, county and local agencies when responding to incidents and emergencies. This existing unique partnership provides an existing framework for agencies working together in managing traffic in the region. TTI staff work closely with all of the agencies at Houston TranStar as well as other local entities; this decades long relationship will assure that the project will be beneficial to residents and be a model for other localities to follow for similar projects.

In conclusion, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute is fully committed to assist the Texas Department of Transportation and partner agencies throughout the duration of this project. TTI shares an industry vision in which no vehicles collide, and people can use connected and automated transportation to transform how they live, work, and interact with their environment. To achieve this vision, research, development, and testing are underway on how vehicles, users and transportation infrastructure all work together. The successful development and deployment of the CAV Tactical Plan for the Houston region is critical for traffic management and operations for the more than seven million residents to better integrate connected and automated vehicles into the region. We look forward to working with TxDOT and other Houston region agencies on this critically important project.

Sincerely,

Gregory D. Winfree

Gregory D. Winfree
Agency Director
Texas A&M Transportation