



**Circulate San Diego**

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August 26, 2021

Nuria Fernandez  
Deputy Administrator  
United State Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**SUBJECT: Support for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System's FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant Application**

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I write to you today to support the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) application submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the Areas of Persistent Poverty Program.

The San Ysidro Transit Center (SYTC) is a major transportation hub at the United States/Mexico border, served by MTS's UC San Diego Blue Line (light rail), MTS Bus Routes 906 and 907, intercity buses, local jitneys, taxicabs, and transportation network companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft. The SYTC is located just north of the primary northbound pedestrian inspection facility at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, one of the world's busiest international land border crossings. The SYTC is a vital artery to the transportation system and one of the busiest stations in the MTS network, with more than 14,000 passengers boarding a bus or trolley on any typical weekday (pre-COVID-19).

The project proposal submitted by MTS will lay the groundwork for significant investments in a community with 88 percent non-white residents, a median household income 52 percent below the regional average and several census tracts highlighted in federal and state environmental justice screening tools as facing environmental and socioeconomic disadvantages. The project will develop a plan for the short and medium-term reconfiguration and upgrade of the SYTC area to accommodate additional Trolley capacity, improve overall operation and function of the transportation modes interfacing with the study area, and enhance safety by removing conflicts between pedestrians, vehicles, and light rail. This project will plan solutions that integrate and enhance multimodal transportation services at the SYTC and within the surrounding communities.

Circulate San Diego is pleased to support this project, which will create a transportation network that facilitates greater mobility options and increased connectivity for communities in need.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support in awarding MTS's project proposal under the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colin Parent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Colin Parent**  
**Executive Director**