Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Alexandria/Virginia Tech (VT) "Smart Mobility Lab" in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Alexandria, located at 301 King Street, Suite 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314. The funding would be used to establish Smart Mobility Lab (SML) operations and invest in initial research and technology development where gaps exist to attract and leverage industry engagement. The SML will be sustained in future years through publicly and privately sponsored research from industry and government partners. Some smart mobility technologies that may be deployed in the SML include: a data exchange system for integrating data from various systems deployed in the SML while providing security and appropriate access for research and development opportunities; smart intersection solutions that identify conflicts and improve vulnerable road users' safety; adaptive lighting on roadways that adjust with changing weather conditions and traffic; implementation of customizable features (like real-time red light patterns changes) to accommodate traffic flow; and the analysis and creation of mobility hubs to connect multiple modes of transportation and make commuting easier.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will bring the benefits of the digital age to the citizens of Alexandria while at the same time serving as a national blueprint for smart mobility deployment. Smart mobility technologies can save lives, enhance safety, provide equitable mobility options, save transportation commuting times, help the environment, support workforce development, and spur economic growth. The project will establish an internship program with the City to provide students with real-world learning opportunities and a talent pipeline to bolster the workforce upon graduation. In addition, VT will develop a program focused on the upskilling of local government officials on Smart Mobility. The SML will offer students new and unique training opportunities and experiential learning in transportation technology design, development, and evaluation.

The SML will provide the necessary technology deployments, sandbox operating environment, industry and government collaborations, and common mission to allow Alexandria and VTTI to develop a national/statewide blueprint for how communities should approach smart mobility deployments. The results of the technology evaluations, developments, and implementations will be shared with a broader stakeholder group. The SML will also provide implementation guidance

to other communities on how to successfully work together to select, modify, and deploy smart mobility technologies. The team will share the results of technology evaluations and deployment performance as applied to common problems based on real world observations. Success will be elevated through the sharing of effective public communications strategies and policy enactment. This guidance will be disseminated to other stakeholders through webinars and day long collaborative workshops that serve to educate those interested in implementing smart mobility solutions. The project's federal nexus is that the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 15 USC Section 272.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

<div align="center">Sincerely,</div>

<div align="center">Don S. Beyer</div>