

April 7, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: City of Long Beach Public Comment—Docket No. DOT-OST-2022-0016**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am writing in response to the Department of Transportation's request for comments related to the Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology (NETT) Council (Docket No. DOT-OST-2022-0016).

Long Beach is a leader in the application of innovative technological solutions in transportation and is implementing high-tech, smart city strategies across each key environmental, economic, and social area of service. In an effort to advance equity, resilience, and community-centered policymaking through technological solutions, in October 2019, the Long Beach City Council approved the development of a Smart City Initiative. The adopted [Smart City Initiative](#) outlines a vision, guiding principles, and actionable strategies to leverage data and emerging technology as strategic tools to solve challenges in our community. We are now in the process of piloting several emerging mobility technology solutions in Long Beach, including a connected intelligent traffic signal system, a curb-level activity sensor, and an advanced air mobility study and community outreach strategy.

In developing the NETT Council's priorities to address coordination on emerging technology issues across modes of transportation, the City recommends the following:

- *Advance Equity:* The NETT Council should evaluate transportation innovation projects with an equity lens to ensure the historically underserved residents and neighborhoods have access to the benefits gained from such technologies.
- *Bolster Climate Resilience:* The NETT Council should evaluate transportation innovation projects with a climate and resiliency lens to ensure that residents facing environmental justice issues have access to the sustainability benefits of such technologies. The NETT Council should consider using the CalEnviroScreen data as a measure for awarding grant monies to California-based projects.
- *Local Funding:* The NETT Council should prioritize disbursement of grant funds directly to local governments to collaboratively engage their constituents on emerging transportation technologies.
- *Promote Workforce Opportunities:* The NETT Council should prioritize technologies that have a positive workforce development and/or local economy benefit.
- *Expand Shared Mobility:* The NETT Council should prioritize technologies that shift away from single-occupancy vehicles towards shared mobility services. Many technologies promise faster travel times, but it is critical that these benefits incentivize shared modes of transportation, such



as public transportation, bike share, and vanpool, in order to reduce the environmental impacts caused by single occupancy vehicles.

- *Advanced Air Mobility*: The NETT Council should prioritize investment in local government capacity to understand the impacts and benefits of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) technologies on local communities, specifically as it relates to AAM policy development, accessibility, workforce development, equity, privacy, and safety.
- *Technology in Infrastructure*: The NETT Council should aim to reduce long-term infrastructure costs and maintenance by streamlining funding to incorporate technology into innovative infrastructure projects and including “dig once” and “build once” opportunities that modernize technology in public facilities.

The key measure of success for the NETT Council’s infrastructure investments should be advancing economic and social opportunity through the connectivity of people, emerging technology, and transportation infrastructure. With the historic opportunity provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the NETT Council is poised to foster creative, technology-based solutions for our nation’s most challenging mobility problems.

Thank you for your consideration of these important priorities in developing the NETT Council’s funding programs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at 562-570-5715 or [Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov](mailto:Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov).

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA  
City Manager

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Alex Padilla  
Congressmember Alan Lowenthal, California 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Congressmember Nanette Barragan, California 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

