



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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July 14, 2025

Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support – SunLine Transit Agency’s Section 5339 Application for Maintenance Facility Replacement through the FY 2025 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program

Dear Federal Transit Administration Review Committee,

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I am pleased to express our support for SunLine Transit Agency’s grant application under the Federal Transit Administration’s Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program. The requested funding would support the replacement of SunLine’s 39-year-old maintenance facility located in Thousand Palms.

SunLine plays a vital role in the Coachella Valley’s regional transit system, serving over 450,000 residents across a 1,120-square-mile area. The agency provides nearly 3 million passenger trips annually, offering essential access to employment, healthcare, education, and other critical services. Through its Commuter Link service, SunLine also connects our valley to broader regional hubs, enhancing mobility and opportunity throughout the region.

SunLine has been recognized nationally for its innovation in zero-emission technology and commitment to sustainable transit. Its ability to maintain these high standards, however, is increasingly challenged by its aging maintenance facility. The Thousand Palms site, which serves as the primary fueling and service location for the agency’s fleet, lacks the infrastructure needed to support an expanding number of low- and zero-emission vehicles. In addition, the absence of adequate climate control presents operational challenges, particularly during extreme summer temperatures, and affects both employee safety and retention.

Investing in a modern maintenance facility will support SunLine’s continued leadership in clean transit, while strengthening the reliability and resilience of public transportation throughout the region, including Palm Desert.

For these reasons, the City of Palm Desert respectfully urges your favorable consideration of SunLine Transit Agency's application. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact City Manager Chris Escobedo at (760) 776-6319 or cescobedo@palmdesert.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan C. Harnik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan C. Harnik, Mayor
City of Palm Desert