

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	19-TRAN-02
Project Title:	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure
TN #:	232268
Document Title:	Golden Gate Bridge Hwy and Transportation District Comments - Request this GFO Allow for Competitive Applications
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Christina Cordero
Organization:	Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
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February 11, 2020

Ms. Esther Odufuwa

Energy Commission Specialist I, Freight and Transit Unit
Advanced Fuels and Vehicle Technologies Office
Fuels and Transportation Division
California Energy Commission

RE: Docket #19-TRAN-02 Medium and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure

Dear Ms. Odufuwa,

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is preparing for the release of a \$47.5 million Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) during the first or second quarter of 2020, under CEC's "Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure" program. On behalf of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (Bridge District), I am writing to request that this GFO allow for competitive applications to build heavy-duty hydrogen fueling stations and upgrade maintenance facilities to support the deployment of Fuel Cell Electric Buses (FCEBs), in addition to applications associated with Battery Electric Buses (BEBs). The Bridge District believes that flexibility allowing for the use of all available zero emission technologies is crucial in order to achieve the goals set forth by CARB's Innovative Clean Transit Regulation.

In addition, the Bridge District would like to state its support for the comments registered by the California Transit Association in its letter to the CEC, dated November 8, 2019, regarding the Concepts Medium and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicles and Infrastructure. I would like to highlight two comments in particular with respect to Concept #2, Transit and Truck Fleets Capital Expense Assistance for Zero-emission Infrastructure Deployment: 1) Transit Agencies be prioritized in the funding process, and 2) the CEC consider establishing a more user-friendly, transparent program, such as a block grant program structure, for allocating capital assistance.

The Bridge District seeks to improve, enhance and preserve the environment by providing high-quality, reliable and sustainable transportation for Bay Area residents that encourages bicycling, walking and transit as opposed to single-occupant vehicle usage in the Golden Gate corridor; and by continuing to evaluate and implement ways to reduce emissions and human-based climate change in all of its operations.

The Bridge District owns and operates the Golden Gate Bridge, along with a fleet of buses and ferries that provides an alternative to driving in the Golden Gate Corridor. Weekdays from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., 23 percent of all trips from Marin and Sonoma Counties into San Francisco are on our buses and ferries. This reduces congestion and greenhouse gas emissions which contributes to the overall quality of life in the community.

Correspondence to Esther Odufuwa, California Energy Commission
February 11, 2020
Page 2

The Bridge District primarily operates commute routes between Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco and Contra Costa Counties, utilizing approximately 150 buses and serving over 3 million annual passengers. Our fleet is a mix of MCI commuter and Gillig urban buses, and our vehicles typically travel 300-400 miles per weekday. This operational profile introduces technical and economic challenges that may be best met by providing flexibility regarding technology options to successfully transition its fleet to zero emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact me at 415-923-2203, or Mona Babauta, Deputy General Manager, Bus Division at 415-257-4467 or MBabauta@goldengate.org, if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Denis J. Mulligan
General Manager