



May 20, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We thank you and the White House for your leadership on efforts to invest in electric vehicles (“EVs”) and their supporting charging infrastructure. We commend the Department for its role in advancing strategic deployment of EV charging stations and we share the Department’s ambition to reduce emissions while making dramatic improvements to advance equitable and widespread access to clean transportation.

Uber has its own goal¹ to operate as a 100% zero-emission mobility platform in Canada, Europe, and the US by the year 2030 and everywhere globally by 2040. Since making our commitment, [battery EV usage on Uber's platform has doubled](#) and we now support the largest all-electric driver network in the US, Canada and Europe, with thousands of drivers using battery EVs.

Last November, President Biden signed the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that includes billions of dollars to help build a network of charging stations across the country for EVs.² As the Department develops guidance to implement the Charging and Refueling Infrastructure Grant Program, we believe that the Department should pursue maximum funding flexibility to help cities like New York create the infrastructure needed to support an equitable transition to EVs and address their unique local needs. The Department can also expedite the establishment of charging stations, especially in boroughs outside of Manhattan, so that the City can reach its goal³ of being carbon neutral by 2050. However, to fully realize New York City’s—and the nation’s—emissions reduction goals, **it’s critical that the Department also prioritize funding for public infrastructure that supports the safe and efficient charging of e-bike batteries.**

Replacing last mile deliveries by vans and trucks with micromobility is a needed way for cities to reduce emissions. However, in places like New York City where this transition is starting to occur, many delivery workers resort to charging stations in the back of convenience stores or in the

¹ <https://www.uber.com/newsroom/driving-a-green-recovery/>

² Uber’s Response to RFI. <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FHWA-2021-0022-0460>

³ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sustainability/our-programs/carbon-neutral-nyc-pr-04-15-2021.page>

apartments where they live, which often means charging several batteries at once, and creating potential safety issues. We have seen reports⁴ of incidents related to the safety of batteries due to the lack of public charging infrastructure, including several where batteries being charged in this way have exploded or caught fire and have caused serious injury or death. Safe charging infrastructure in cities like New York, such as what Senate Majority Leader Schumer has advocated for,⁵ is essential to continuing the transition to electrification across all modes, including for micromobility.

We respectfully request that the Department prioritize funding innovative solutions that not only expand access to electric vehicles throughout the county but also expand access to safe, affordable e-bike charging solutions.

Sincerely,



CR Wooters
Head of Federal Affairs
Uber Technologies, Inc.

CC: Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer
CC: Deputy Administrator Jane Pollack, Federal Highway Administration
CC: Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, New York City Department of Transportation

⁴ <https://www.consumerreports.org/electric-bikes/how-to-prevent-e-bike-fires-a2493889574/>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/SenSchumer/status/1488338180168368132>