ACTIVE SGV

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August 22, 2025

Pasadena Finance Committee and City Council
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: Support the procurement of 17 Pasadena Transit Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan

Dear City of Pasadena Finance Committee and City Councilmembers:

As a place-based community organization dedicated to realizing a more sustainable, equitable, and livable San Gabriel Valley, ActiveSGV is pleased to support the purchase of zero-emission Pasadena Transit buses.

Over the past few years Pasadena, like so many communities around the world, has endured devastating wildfires and extreme heat events, disasters that the best available science tells us are tied to GHG emissions. While Pasadena only has so much power over this very global problem, the City does have the ability to help lead the transition to non-polluting modes of transportation. The proposed investment in zero-emission buses would be another step in this direction.

The procurement of non-polluting buses would also serve as a critical step towards realizing the long-awaited “Mt. Wilson Express”, with city buses slated to launch this innovative pilot weekend service in 2027. Over the past four years the Pasadena Department of Transportation, Nature for All, U.S. Forest Service, LA County, Caltrans, and numerous community partners have been planning the new route. In 2023 Metro’s Recreation Access (Transit-to-Parks) program awarded the City of Pasadena funding to launch this exciting new service.

Pasadena’s new buses will help the City transition to a zero emission fleet as required by state law, as well as implement the Mt. Wilson Express service before the grant deadline. The transit-to-trails route is planned to start from Old Pasadena’s Memorial Park, then head north to serve local Northwest Pasadena stops, Hahamongna Watershed Park, and into the Angeles National Forest, where it will serve several popular trailheads before reaching the final station, the Mt. Wilson Observatory. In addition to getting traffic off the road, this exciting new transit service will draw more foot traffic to Old Pasadena, with visitors likely to dine and shop in the City before or after their outings.

If you have any questions regarding our support for these innovative projects, please contact me at david@activeSGV.org. Thank you for your consideration,

David Diaz, MPH
Executive Director

Outward Bound Adventures

SINCE 1962

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August 22, 2025

City of Pasadena
Finance Committee and City Council
100 N. Garfield Ave.,
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: Support the purchase of 17 Pasadena Transit Fuel Cell Electric Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan

Dear City of Pasadena Finance Committee and City Councilmembers:

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) is in full support of the purchase of 17 Pasadena Transit, Fuel Cell Electric Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan.

Our recent wildfires and extreme heat waves remind us that implementation of the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan is imperative to limit the local impacts of climate change.

In addition, the Fuel Cell Electric Buses (FCEB) are a critical piece of the City's planned "Mt. Wilson Express" transit route. The buses are needed to launch the innovative pilot weekend service to the San Gabriel Mountains. The community is eagerly awaiting this route, and any delay could impact grant implementation.

As you may know, the City of Pasadena was awarded funding in 2023 from Metro's Recreation Access (Transit to Parks) grant to launch this service. This route has been in planning for over four years with Pasadena Department of Transportation, Nature for All, U.S. Forest Service, consultants, LA County Supervisors, road agencies and numerous community partners.

These FCEB are needed to quickly transition Pasadena's vehicles to a zero emission fleet as required by state law, and to implement the Mt. Wilson Express service before the grant deadline. Further, FCEBs provide reliable service and extended range, which are important for meeting the mountain conditions of the route.

The Mt. Wilson Express bus route is planned to start from Old Pasadena's Memorial Park, head north to serve local Northwest Pasadena stops, then Hahamongna Watershed Park, then head up into the Angeles National Forest, serving popular trailheads and ending at Mt. Wilson Observatory, then looping back. Boosts to the local economy are also anticipated for the Old Pasadena business district, with increased foot traffic and tourism from visitors dining and shopping before and after their trip.

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) is the oldest nonprofit in the nation dedicated to connecting urban youth of color to the outdoors. For over 60 years, OBA has ensured that youth from low income, diverse and underserved communities have access to nature, environmental education and pathways to successful careers in the outdoors, conservation. restoration and education. Since 1962, OBA has served over 90,000 participants from throughout Los Angeles County and beyond, and works in over 25 cities and unincorporated communities, and with Native American tribes.

At the core of our mission is the belief that access to natural spaces is a right for all, particularly for youth who have traditionally been excluded from these opportunities. Reliable, environmentally sustainable transportation would be transformational in helping OBA fulfill this mission. It would allow the youth we serve to more easily and frequently reach local parks, trails, and wildlands, reinforcing the critical connections between outdoor access, health, stewardship, and a sense of responsibility for the environment. This investment would not only expand opportunities for our youth but also highlight the power of transit-to-trails in creating equitable access to the outdoors.

We strongly urge this purchase to follow through with the City's much-anticipated plans.

Please feel free to contact us at (626) 564-0844 for any questions regarding our support.

Sincerely,

Charles Thomas
Executive Director
Outward Bound Adventures

NATURE FOR ALL
PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT

August 22, 2025

City of Pasadena
Finance Committee and City Council
100 N. Garfield Ave.,
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: Support the purchase of 17 Pasadena Transit Fuel Cell Electric Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan

Dear City of Pasadena Finance Committee and City Councilmembers:

Nature for All is in full support of the purchase of 17 Pasadena Transit, Fuel Cell Electric Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan.

Our recent wildfires and extreme heat waves remind us that implementation of the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan is imperative to limit the local impacts of climate change.

In addition, **the Fuel Cell Electric Buses (FCEB) are a critical piece of the City's planned "Mt. Wilson Express" transit route. The buses are needed to launch the innovative pilot weekend service to the San Gabriel Mountains. The community is eagerly awaiting this route, and any delay could impact grant implementation and two federal grants which are connected to this project.**

Nature for All is delighted with our ongoing partnership with the City of Pasadena on this groundbreaking project. As an organization dedicated to connecting our local communities with nature, we are depending on the zero emission bus access to the stunning mountains and shaded Arroyo Seco canyons in our backyard to provide families vital health, wellness, outdoor recreation and transformative experiences in nature.

NATURE FOR ALL
PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT

As you may know, the City of Pasadena was awarded funding in 2023 from Metro's Recreation Access (Transit to Parks) grant to launch this service. This route has been in planning for over four years with Pasadena Department of Transportation, Nature for All, U.S. Forest Service, consultants, Congresswoman Judy Chu, LA County Supervisors Barger and Solis, road agencies and numerous community partners.

These FCEB are needed to quickly transition Pasadena's vehicles to a zero emission fleet as required by state law, and to implement the Mt. Wilson Express service before the grant deadline. Further, FCEB provide reliable service and extended range, which are important for meeting the mountain conditions of the route.

The Mt. Wilson Express bus route is planned to start from Old Pasadena's Memorial Park, head north to serve local Northwest Pasadena stops, then Hahamongna Watershed Park, then head up into the Angeles National Forest, serving popular trailheads and ending at Mt. Wilson Observatory, then looping back. Boosts to the local economy are also anticipated for the Old Pasadena business district, with increased foot traffic and tourism from visitors dining and shopping before and after their trip.

We strongly urge this purchase, to follow through with the City's much-anticipated plans.

Please feel free to contact me at belen@lanatureforall.org for any questions regarding our support.

Sincerely,

Belén Bernal
Executive Director, Nature for All

MOUNT WILSON
OBSERVATORY

August 22, 2025

City of Pasadena
Finance Committee and City Council
100 N. Garfield Ave.,
Pasadena, CA 91101

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RE: Support the purchase of 17 Pasadena Transit Fuel Cell Electric Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan

Dear City of Pasadena Finance Committee and City Councilmembers:

Mount Wilson Institute is in full support of the purchase of 17 Pasadena Transit, Fuel Cell Electric Buses per the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan.

Our recent wildfires and extreme heat waves remind us that implementation of the City's Zero Emission Rollout Plan is imperative to limit the local impacts of climate change.

In addition, the Fuel Cell Electric Buses (FCEB) are a critical piece of the City's planned "Mt. Wilson Express" transit route. The buses are needed to launch the innovative pilot weekend service to the San Gabriel Mountains. The community is eagerly awaiting this route, and any delay could impact grant implementation.

As you may know, the City of Pasadena was awarded funding in 2023 from Metro's Recreation Access (Transit to Parks) grant to launch this service. This route has been in planning for over four years with Pasadena Department of Transportation, Nature for All, U.S. Forest Service, consultants, LA County Supervisors, road agencies and numerous community partners.

These FCEB are needed to quickly transition Pasadena's vehicles to a zero emission fleet as required by state law, and to implement the Mt. Wilson Express service before the grant deadline. Further, FCEB provide reliable service and extended range, which are important for meeting the mountain conditions of the route.

The Mt. Wilson Express bus route is planned to start from Old Pasadena's Memorial Park, head north to serve local Northwest Pasadena stops, then Hahamongna Watershed Park, then head up into the Angeles National Forest, serving popular trailheads and ending at Mt. Wilson Observatory, then looping back. Boosts to the local economy are also anticipated for the Old Pasadena business district, with increased foot traffic and tourism from visitors dining and shopping before and after their trip.

The Mount Wilson Express will serve the entire San Gabriel Mountain area along Angeles Crest Highway and will be a godsend for all those who have no other way to visit the area. Mount Wilson Observatory, an historical icon above the City of Pasadena and an integral part of the city's history, would obviously benefit. However, more importantly, this project would also benefit all those individuals who would finally be able to visit the mountains they see every day. Bus service to the Observatory will be instrumental in allowing us to serve a much wider demographic, an essential element of our original mission – to share the grounds for public pleasure and enjoyment.

We strongly urge this purchase, to follow through with the City's much-anticipated plans.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding our support.

Sincerely,

Dan Kohne
Trustee, Mount Wilson Institute
Chief Operating Officer
dkohne@mtwilson.edu

Katie Steinke

Katie Bannan Steinke
Trustee, Mount Wilson Institute
Executive Director, Development and Outreach
ksteinke@mtwilson.edu