

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to request your consideration of two grant proposals submitted by the City of San Antonio to replace an HVAC system and roof at the Stinson Municipal Airport (SSF), and construction of a ground load terminal facility at the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) through the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Terminal Program (ATP). Both grant proposals seek to achieve the intent of the ATP, as well as Congress' goals in implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law by not only addressing infrastructure, but also addressing other vital priorities such as equity and accessibility.


According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, San Antonio saw the largest numerical increase in population in the country during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. San Antonio is also the largest majority Hispanic city in the United States, and approximately 75 percent of its population are people of color. The city is situated in the southern terminus of the Austin-San Antonio corridor, the fastest growing region in the United States with increasing passenger demands on both SAT and SSF. The San Antonio Airport System's (SAAS) Strategic Development Plan is underway, to accommodate the growth of the San Antonio region. This plan will provide new airport facilities – showcasing cutting-edge technology and design standards incorporating lessons learned during the pandemic. To meet current and future transportation demands of our community, San Antonio needs assistance from the Department of Transportation to ensure residents and travelers have the efficient, equitable, and resilient travel experience they deserve.

The SAT terminal project is for the construction of a dedicated ground load terminal facility that would add five new ground gates, holding rooms, and additional passenger facilities. This project would allow for five simultaneous aircraft operations and is a critical infrastructure improvement to allow SAT to accommodate current and projected passenger demands. This project lays the groundwork to facilitate increased airline and passenger capacity at SAT. Additionally, the project will help support job growth, improve aging infrastructure, allow for enhanced accessibility and energy efficiency at the SAT.


Established in 1915, SSF is the second oldest active airport in the country and maintains a vital general aviation mission, as it serves as both a historical location and an essential community facility. SSF also provides a free space for STEM-Aviation learning opportunities and continuing education for residents from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. The SSF terminal project request is to replace the aging terminal roof and outdated HVAC system to significantly improve the energy efficiency of the terminal. This project is in alignment with the Administration's climate consideration policy goals as expressed under Executive Order 14008 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad). This project would preserve a historic building by addressing the aging infrastructure and improving energy efficiency.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the grant proposals submitted by the city of San Antonio. These funding projects will provide safe and improved access to opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for San Antonio residents. We ask that you keep us apprised of the progress of these applications.


Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Cc:
Billy Nolen, Acting FAA Administrator
Bradley Mims, Deputy Administrator
Shanetta R. Griffin, Associate Administrator