

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

August 5, 2019

Matthew Welbes
Executive Director
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Executive Director Welbes,

I am writing in support of the City of Longview's (RiverCities Transit) FY 2019 Bus and Bus Facilities grant application. Federal funds would enable RiverCities Transit (RCT) to replace the four oldest, and only remaining high-floor vehicles in its active fleet that have exceeded their useful lives.

RCT serves the busy Cowlitz County communities of Longview and Kelso that border I-5 in Southwest Washington. These communities are home to employers, higher education institutions, and healthcare facilities. In 2018, RCT provided 354,000 fixed route unlinked passenger trips and over 50,000 ADA paratransit trips. As RiverCities Transit has increased the service provided to the communities of Longview and Kelso, its vehicles are running more miles and are in service longer now than in years past.

According to RCT, forty-six percent of its fleet is operating past their useful lives, and the four buses to be replaced are the oldest in the fleet. Two are over 17 years old with an average of 461,000 miles and two are over 16 years old with an average of 421,000 miles. The longer they are in operation, the more expensive they become to maintain. Thirty-three percent of the overall vehicle maintenance costs and thirty-one percent of the maintenance labor hours for the fixed route fleet can be attributed to the four vehicles that will be replaced with grant funding.

Replacement of these four vehicles will improve the system's condition and reliability, and I am pleased to offer my support to the City of Longview and RiverCities Transit. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

EVERETT
2930 WETMORE AVENUE
SUITE 9B
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 303-0114
FAX: (425) 303-8351

RICHLAND
825 JADWIN AVENUE
SUITE 204/204A
RICHLAND, WA 99352
(509) 946-8106
FAX: (509) 946-6937

SEATTLE
JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 2ND AVENUE, SUITE 3206
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003
(206) 220-6400
TOLL FREE: 1-888-648-7328
FAX: (206) 220-6404

SPOKANE
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
WEST 920 RIVERSIDE, SUITE 697
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 353-2507
FAX: (509) 353-2547

TACOMA
950 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 615
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 572-2281
FAX: (253) 572-5879

VANCOUVER
MARSHALL HOUSE
1313 OFFICERS' ROW
FIRST FLOOR
VANCOUVER, WA 98661
(360) 696-7838
FAX: (360) 696-7844

WASHINGTON, DC
511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
(202) 224-3441
FAX: (202) 228-0514