

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 24, 2020

Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Williams:

We are writing in support of Kitsap County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (Kitsap Transit)'s application to the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2020 Low or No Emission Grant Program. This grant funding is essential to accelerate Kitsap Transit's deployment of battery-electric buses in their fleet that serves riders along the Kitsap Peninsula with connections to Kitsap Transit Fast Ferries, Washington State Ferries, Pierce, and King Counties.

Kitsap Transit transports approximately 4 million riders annually, providing a diverse customer base with crucial transportation services. The recent addition of Bremerton and Kingston passenger-only Fast Ferry service quickly and efficiently connects riders from Kitsap County to King County. According to Kitsap Transit, these transportation options require increased bus service to meet community demand. Kitsap Transit is committed to promoting energy conservation, enhancing healthy communities, and protecting the environment by reducing their fleet emissions with additional electrified buses on fixed routes. The electrified buses will reduce harmful emissions otherwise caused by conventional diesel powered transit vehicles.

Federal funding would replace five conventional diesel buses with battery-electric heavy-duty buses and critical charging infrastructure. These steps will support Kitsap Transit's operational objectives in line with statewide goals to adopt alternative fuels for public transportation vehicles. By incorporating innovative electric technology and domestically produced battery-electric buses, Kitsap Transit's diesel fleet replacement is helping to lead the charge for zero-emission public transportation.

Electric technology significantly improves Kitsap Transit's operations, lowers costs, and preserves the environment while providing safe, reliable and affordable public transportation options for riders. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of Kitsap Transit's application to the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2020 Low or No Emission Program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

