



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Peter Browning, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District

February 23, 2023

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Funding Request – Skagit Transit

Dear Senator Cantwell,

We are writing in support of Skagit Transit's 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending request of \$5,000,000 to assist in construction completion of their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project. This project will replace Skagit Transit's current operation and maintenance facility with a new facility better suited to Skagit Transit's current needs and projected growth.

Skagit Transit serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future. The current facility presents several constraints in space for staff and equipment. Additionally, the current facility is in the floodplain that annually puts the fleet and other publicly funded assets at risk. Building a new operation and maintenance facility will address all these concerns.

In addition to serving Skagit's four major cities (Anacortes, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley and Mount Vernon), Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient commuter transit services. The agency works with neighboring transits as well as intercity bus and rail services providing public transportation connections within the northwestern region of Washington State. These services assist in the statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and give the Northwest region residents an affordable commuting option to help them back to work.

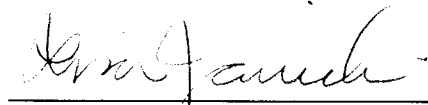
Phase one of the three-phase construction effort is currently underway, with the remaining phases shovel ready pending funding.

We appreciate your time and consideration of Skagit Transit's request.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Ron Wesen, Chair


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner


Peter Browning, Commissioner