



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Veronica Vanterpool
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Skagit Transit Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility Project

Acting Administrator Vanterpool,

The Skagit Board of County Commissioners write to support Skagit Transit's request for \$19,500,000 in 2024 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission grant funding to complete the Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility Project. The proposed new facility is a regionally significant and shovel-ready project. Phase one of the three-phase construction effort is currently in progress and will be completed in spring of 2024. Phases two and three are in final design and will be ready for construction to begin in the fall of 2024.

The project will replace the current facility which serves as an operation base for the sole Skagit County public transportation agency. Skagit Transit has outgrown the current facility, which sits within an active flood plain, and a new base is required to maintain current levels of transit services and provide for growth within the agency to expand services. The project includes low- and no-emissions infrastructure to allow the agency to meet state and national environmental sustainability goals.

The Skagit Transit route networks serve the four major population centers in Skagit County: Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Anacortes. Skagit Transit also offers direct and expedient commuter transit services. Commuter bus operations are coordinated with neighboring transits and 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 and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

We are proud of the work done by Skagit Transit to connect residents with work and recreational opportunities in the region. Skagit County has a large rural population on the eastside and Anacortes sits over twenty miles west from the other three major cities. Skagit Transit ensures routes are available to provide transportation at an affordable rate from all corners of the community and has provided free service during times of emergency to allow for any resident to transit to providers and shelters. Community partners such as Skagit Transit are vital to the livability of a rural county, and we are excited for the new opportunities available to our area after the completion of the Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility.


We are in full support of Skagit Transit's application for 2024 Low or No Emission grant funding. We recognize the need for this new facility which will enable the transit system to keep pace with current and future public transportation needs of Skagit County and neighboring communities in Northwest Washington.

Sincerely,

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


Peter Browning, Chair


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner


Ron Wesen, Commissioner