



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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

June 14, 2024

Mr. Michael Fong
Director, Washington State Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Skagit Transit FY24 Clean Energy Program General Solicitation Grant Application

Director Fong,

We are writing to support Skagit Transit's request for \$1,745,000 in FY2024 Washington State Department of Commerce Clean Energy Program's General Solicitation grant funds. These funds will allow Skagit Transit to execute the next step in the agency's Zero Emissions Transition plan to shift to clean energy sources at their new Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility, which is currently under construction.

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.

In alignment with state and regional goals to reduce emissions, Skagit Transit's new facility will make their transition to a zero-emission fleet possible. Skagit Transit will begin replacing diesel, propane, and gas-powered revenue and staff vehicles with electric powered vehicles as they come into rotation for replacement beginning in 2026. By 2040, an estimated 78 revenue and staff vehicles will be replaced by electric powered vehicles. This will result in the annual consumption reduction of 251,440 gallons of diesel, 85,292 gallons of propane, and 39,110 gallons of gasoline, and have the total effect of reducing 262 direct metric tons of CO₂ annually.

We are in full support of Skagit Transit's application for FY2024 Clean Energy Program General Solicitation grant funding. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and finding new opportunities for electric vehicle usage in Skagit County is paramount to the resiliency of our community and we are thankful to Skagit Transit for spearheading this effort.

Sincerely,

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


Peter Browning, Chair


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner


Ron Wesen, Commissioner