



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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

September 5, 2024

Mr. Roger Millar
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Skagit Transit WSDOT Green Transportation Capital Grant Program Application

Secretary Millar,

The Skagit Board of County Commissioners writes to support Skagit Transit's request for \$9,000,000 in Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Green Transportation Capital Grant Program funds. These funds will allow Skagit Transit to complete phases two and three of the new Maintenance, Operations, and Administration facility, which is crucial to the agency's long-term fleet transition to battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses.

Construction of phase two will complete the interior of the main administration building where important elements of the operation, such as dispatch and maintenance, will be housed. Phase three will complete site work of the main parcel and the adjacent parcel to the North. A large bus canopy with a 1MW solar array on top will be located on the northern parcel.

As an agency, Skagit Transit is committed to strengthening the community at-large as they evolve services and capabilities. In alignment with these values, the agency will seek to supplement its power demands and share excess with the local Puget Sound Energy power grid. Skagit Transit intends to incorporate green energy elements to create a microgrid in phases four and five comprised of hydrogen fueling components, a large solar array, and ample battery storage to leverage generated power to support its power demands.

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. We are in full support of Skagit Transit's application for WSDOT Green Transportation Capital Grant Program funds. 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,


Peter Browning, Chair


Ron Wesen, Commissioner


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner