



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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

September 17, 2024

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

Re: Skagit Transit Applications for WSDOT 2025 – 2027 Consolidated Grant Program

Secretary Millar,

The Skagit Board of County Commissioners writes to support the following Skagit Transit's applications for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) 2025 – 2027 Consolidated Grant Program. These funds will allow Skagit Transit to maintain existing services and support the fleet transition plan to zero emissions vehicles in-service.

- Maintain Service for Route 615 (Four years)
- Maintain Service for Route 717 (Four years)
- Microtransit for North Anacortes (Two years)
- Small Capital: On-Route Electric Vehicle Fleet Charging – Skagit Station & Chuckanut
- Vehicles: Replacement Paratransit
 - Two Battery Electric
 - Three Propane

The Skagit Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan identified unmet transportation needs within the community such as increasing and improving service levels, improving regional connections, and expanding services in areas identified as high need areas, which include the non-urbanized areas of Skagit County.


Skagit Transit's operational projects address transportation needs for our rural and vehicle-dependent areas of Skagit County as well as seek to improve service frequency to further reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips which is crucial to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. It is a priority to our community that our largest contributors to air pollution take actionable steps to reduce emissions. Skagit Transit's request for funds to create on-route electric vehicle charging for its fleet is essential to the zero-emissions fleet transition plan and ensure the requested replacement paratransit vehicles are supported with the necessary infrastructure.

In alignment with state and regional goals to reduce emissions, Skagit Transit's project applications will help make the transition to a zero-emission fleet possible and reduce single-occupancy vehicles on the road. We are

in full support of Skagit Transit's applications for the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program. 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