



Operated by City of Longview

July 8, 2018

Regional Mobility Grant Evaluation Panel
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

Re: FY 2019-2021 Regional Mobility Grant
Lexington Connector Expansion Project

Dear Panel Members,

On behalf of the Cowlitz Transit Authority, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Longview's (RiverCities Transit) application for the Lexington Connector Expansion Project. This project will expand the RiverCities Transit service from Kelso and Longview north along State Route 411 to Lexington, in unincorporated Cowlitz County. This Regional Mobility Grant will be used to purchase one (1) light-duty cutaway vehicle and provide up to eight hours of weekday service and four hours of weekend service to the currently unserved community.

Lexington is located in the Longview-Kelso Metropolitan Planning Area and is one of the fastest growing areas in Cowlitz County with a mix of 65 and older populations as well as families with children. Lexington experienced an 11.5% population increase from 2010 to 2015 and is expected to continue to grow as multi-family housing developments are planned and permitted. Currently, there is one 55 and older community at the north end of the MPA, two apartment complexes, and one long-term care facility. While there are some commercial services in the area, all grocery stores, medical facilities, and regional transportation connections are located in Longview or Kelso. This project will allow residents of Lexington an alternative to single occupancy vehicle travel along State Route 411 and I-5, and will open access to essential services for those with lower incomes and those without a vehicle.

This letter confirms the Cowlitz Transit Authority's financial support of \$73,000 in local funds to expand service to Lexington in unincorporated Cowlitz County. These funds are provided by a transit sales tax our voters approved to enhance transit service, and they meet the local match requirement established in the Notice of Funding Announcement.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you will support this worthy request.

Sincerely,

Dennis Weber, CTA Board Chair

Phone 360.442.5663

Fax 360.442.5979

PO Box 128

Longview, WA 98632-7080

www.rctransit.org