



*Operated by City of Longview
July 9, 2018*

FTA Program Manager
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 2018 Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant
Longview, Washington (RiverCities Transit)
Four Replacement Heavy Duty Buses

Dear FTA Program Manager,

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 replacement of their four oldest diesel buses. The bus grant will be used to replace four high-floor diesel buses that have exceeded their useful life at over 16 years old and 400,000 miles.

In 2008, the citizens of Longview and Kelso voted to increase funding for public transit to provide more frequent service and expand services. Since then, RiverCities Transit has successfully extended hours, decreased wait times from 60 to 30 minutes on nearly half of its routes, and increased on-time performance while increasing customer information through the use of on-board GPS tracking. As RiverCities Transit has increased the service provided to the communities of Longview and Kelso, the vehicle fleet has expanded, and vehicles are running more miles and are in service longer now than in years past. In an effort to continue to provide reliable, efficient service to citizens accessing medical, educational and job opportunities, the City must maintain a reliable fleet and replacing the four oldest vehicles in the fleet will help greatly.

This letter confirms the Cowlitz Transit Authority's financial support of \$520,000 in local funds to purchase four replacement buses as requested in the Bus and Bus Facilities Program applications. 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

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