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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4706

February 21st, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased today to write in strong support of Kitsap County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority's (Kitsap Transit) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) FY2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for their proposal, the *Maintenance Facility Construction and Fleet Modernization Project*.

Presently, Kitsap Transit operates 85 Fixed Route Buses, 60 Para Transit Buses, 35 VanLink Buses, 79 Vanpool Vans, and 93 support vehicles—all serviced in Charleston Base's 3-bay maintenance facility. With an anticipated annual growth of their electric fleet as they work towards their 30 by 2025 goal, the current facility's limitations in handling battery replacements, ensuring safe access to the tops of buses, and providing charging capabilities in the maintenance bays pose a significant concern. This funding, if awarded, would allow for the construction of a proposed maintenance facility that would address these challenges by providing the necessary infrastructure to support the maintenance and charging requirements of the expanding electric bus fleet, ensuring the safety and efficiency of Kitsap Transit's operations.

The *Maintenance Facility Construction and Fleet Modernization Project* is a crucial initiative for Kitsap Transit, strategically addressing the challenges posed by the outdated Charleston Base facility. This 1940s maintenance facility, currently operating at full capacity with only three maintenance bays, has become increasingly overcrowded and is inadequately equipped to handle the evolving needs of Kitsap Transit's expanding fleet. It is imperative to emphasize the pressing need for this project given Kitsap Transit's current limitations. This essential infrastructure aligns seamlessly with Kitsap Transit's forward-thinking approach, addressing present needs while preparing for the future. The success of this project will not only fortify Kitsap Transit's vital transportation network but also contribute significantly to environmental sustainability and enhanced service provision throughout Kitsap County.

It is for these reasons that I strong support Kitsap Transit's application to the DOT's FY2024 RAISE discretionary grant program for their proposal, the *Maintenance Facility Construction and Fleet Modernization Project*, and I urge your fair and full consideration of their proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact Emma Abraham in my Tacoma district office at Emma.Abraham@mail.house.gov or 253-272-3515.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress