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RICK LARSEN
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July 8, 2022

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez:

I request your full and fair consideration of an application submitted by Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle (Low-No) grant program for purchase of electric buses and installation of bus chargers.

WTA is seeking funds to replace eight diesel buses with eight electric buses and to purchase and install related charging infrastructure. These zero-emission vehicles would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and could save fuel and maintenance costs over the life of the vehicles.

Electric buses would also help WTA reduce its impact on overburdened communities located near high-traffic transit routes. In Whatcom County, 60 percent of people below the poverty threshold reside within a quarter mile of a WTA bus stop. In fact, three apartment complexes for low-income residents are located within a quarter mile of WTA's downtown transit hub.

WTA's project aligns with the Administration's goal of ensuring 40 percent of federal program funds benefit projects designed to help disadvantaged communities. If funded, this project would enhance WTA's efforts to provide a reliable and sustainable public transportation system and keep pace with current and increasing ridership demand throughout Whatcom County.

For these reasons, I appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of WTA's application.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, Second District