

United States Senate WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR. AND PENSIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET

June 28, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590

### Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of an application submitted by Skagit Transit for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants *Program* to complete the construction of its Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility.

Skagit Transit provides extensive transit services in Skagit County, Washington, but currently operates out of a twenty-year old facility that is not adequately equipped to meet the needs of the community. Since the facility was built, Skagit Transit has expanded services to include local fixed route, paratransit, commuter bus, ADA paratransit, and vanpool program services. These new commuting options require an increase in personnel and capacity. Skagit Transit would use grant funds to complete the renovations of the administrative and public use areas of a new facility, which would allow the transit authority to meet current demand and prepare for future expansion.

The agency provides critical mobility options for the region's rural communities throughout Skagit County, which has a poverty rate of over 14 percent and is home to five census tracts certified as Opportunity Zones. Additionally, Skagit Transit's current facility is located within the 100 year flood plain, which leaves the agency unable to address the evacuation needs of the community in the event of a major flood event. The new facility would also include infrastructure to support emergency services personnel and equipment during an emergency event. Finally, the facility would include features to reduce energy consumption, including an on-site propane fueling station and capacity for future use of electric transit vehicles.

This funding would allow Skagit Transit to build on local, state and national efforts to move transit fleets to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. Thank you for your consideration of their application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle, WA, office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,

**United States Senator** 

1st District, Washington
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6311

22121 17TH AVE SE, STE 220 BOTHELL, WA 98021 (425) 485-0085

204 W. Montgomery St. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 416–7879

WWW.DELBENE.HOUSE.GOV

# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE** 

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, D.C. 25090

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of Skagit Transit's application for \$10,000,000 for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant program to support construction of its Maintenance, Operation and Administration Facility.

Skagit Transit provides extensive transit services in Skagit County, Washington, but currently operates out of a twenty-year-old facility that is not adequately equipped to meet the needs of the community. Since the facility was built, Skagit Transit has expanded services to include local fixed route, paratransit commuter bus, ADA paratransit and vanpool program services. These new commuting options require an increase in personnel and capacity. Skagit Transit would use grant funds to renovate the maintenance areas of a new facility and build new ancillary maintenance fuel and wash facilities which would complete the facility construction and allow the transit authority to meet current demand and prepare for future expansion.

The agency provides critical mobility options for the region's rural communities throughout Skagit County, which has a poverty rate of over 13% and is home to five census tracts certified as Opportunity Zones. Additionally, Skagit Transit's current facility is located in the 100-year flood plain, which leaves the agency unable to address the evacuation needs of the community during a major flood event. The new facility would include infrastructure to support emergency services personnel and equipment during an emergency event. Finally, the facility would include features to reduce energy consumption, including an on-site propane fueling station, and capacity for future use of electric transit vehicles.

This funding would allow Skagit Transit to build on local, state, and national efforts to move transit fleets to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene Member of Congress Washington 1st District 2163 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225–2605
DISTRICT OFFICES:
2930 WETMORE AVENUE, SUITE 9F
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 252–3188

119 N. COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 275 BELLINGHAM, WA 98225 (360) 733-4500

E-Mail: Rick.Larsen@mail.house.gov http://larsen.house.gov

## RICK LARSEN 2ND DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION

AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE

ON AVIATION

ARMED SERVICES

Washington, DC 20515-4702

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I request your attention to Skagit Transit's application for \$10 million through the 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for a new maintenance facility.

Skagit Transit provides fixed-route, ADA paratransit, commuter bus and vanpool program services in Skagit County, Washington. The transit agency currently operates out of a 20-year-old facility that is not adequately equipped to handle the community's transportation needs. Skagit Transit operates 19 fixed routes, three commuter routes and more than 45 vanpool groups for over 700,000 riders annually. This large operation requires an increase in personnel and capacity.

Skagit Transit would use RAISE funds to renovate the maintenance areas of a new facility to help meet current rider demand and prepare for future expansion. The transit agency would also use grant funds to develop an adjacent parcel to include new bus wash and fueling facilities and an operator training area. The new facility would include infrastructure to support emergency services personnel and equipment during an emergency or major flood event. The facility would also include features to reduce energy consumption, including an on-site propane fueling station and capacity to implement Skagit Transit's strategy for future use of electric transit vehicles.

For these reasons, I request your careful consideration of Skagit Transit's RAISE application.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen

U.S. Representative

Washington State, Second District

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Transportation Building 310 Maple Park Avenue S.E. P.O. Box 47300 Olympia, WA 98504-7300 360-705-7000 TTY: 1-800-833-6388 www.wsdot.wa.gov

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) supports Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in US Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project (Project). The Project will replace the current facility which serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future.

Skagit Transit's local network of transit routes serve Skagit County's four major population centers, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Burlington and Anacortes. Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient commuter transit services. Commuter bus operations are coordinated with neighboring transits and intercity bus and rail services providing public transportation connections within the northwestern region of Washington State. These services assist in the statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

This Project is shovel ready and regionally significant. Phase one of the three phase construction effort is currently underway. The Project adds space for staff and equipment, removes the fleet and other publicly funded assets from the flood plain and assists in maintaining a state of good repair of the transit system.

WSDOT is pleased to support Skagit Transit's grant application and we hope you'll give this project full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, AICP Secretary of Transportation

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## Skagit County Board of Commissioners

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

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

We write today in support of Skagit Transit's application for \$10 million in Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding. This project will replace Skagit Transit's current operation and maintenance facility with a new facility better suited to Skagit Transit's current needs and projected growth.

Skagit Transit serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future. The current facility presents several constraints in space for staff and equipment. Additionally, the current facility is in the floodplain, which annually puts the fleet and other publicly funded assets at risk. Building a new operation and maintenance facility will address all these concerns.

In addition to serving Skagit's four major cities (Anacortes, Burlington, Sedro-Woolley and Mount Vernon), Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient commuter transit services. Commuter bus operations are coordinated with neighboring transits and intercity bus and rail services providing public transportation connections within the northwestern region of Washington State. These services assist in the Statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and give Northwest region residents an affordable commuting option to help get them back to work.

Phase one of the three phase construction effort is currently underway, with the remaining phases shovel ready pending funding.

We appreciate your time and consideration of Skagit Transit's request.

Sincerely,

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Peter Browning, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

315 South Third Street, Suite 100 • Mount Vernon • WA • 98273

www.scog.net

June 2, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant program funds to complete their new Maintenance, Operations and Administration Facility. The project will replace the current facility which serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and position the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future.

Skagit Transit's local network of transit routes serve Skagit County's four major population centers: Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington and Anacortes. The local network also connects rural areas of Skagit County to these urban areas and provides essential connections to local Environmental Justice protected populations. Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient regional transit services. These express services are coordinated with neighboring transit agencies, intercity bus and rail services – providing the traveling public with a connected transportation network across northwest Washington state. Regional services such as these assist in statewide efforts to reduce congestion along the Interstate 5 corridor and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The project addresses barriers experienced at the current facility, including: eliminating constraints in space for staff and equipment, and removing the transit fleet and other publicly funded assets from Skagit County's floodplain. In addition, the new facility's location outside of the floodplain will allow more effective emergency response from Skagit Transit in the event of a flood.

Skagit Transit's Maintenance, Operations and Administration Facility is a regionally significant project that is shovel ready. All three phases of this project are included in the metropolitan transportation plan for our region. The first phase is completely funded with construction underway, and the other phases are high priorities in the plan.

The Skagit Council of Governments strongly supports Skagit Transit services and recognizes the need for this vital facility, enabling the transit system to keep pace with current and future public transportation needs of the public in northwest Washington state.

Sincerely,

Pocusigned by:

Levin Murphy

711DD13472BE409...

Kevin Murphy Executive Director



June 18, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in US Department of Transportation RAISE grant program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project.

The project will replace the current facility which serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future.

Skagit Transit's local network of transit routes serve Skagit County's four major population centers, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Burlington and Anacortes.

Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient commuter transit services. Commuter bus operations are coordinated with neighboring transits and intercity bus and rail services providing public transportation connections within the northwestern region of Washington State. These services assist in the Statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor, and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

As Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon I advocate for my residents who use Skagit Transit for work, school, shopping and all transportation needs.

Skagit Transit's Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility is a regionally significant project that is shovel ready, Phase one of the three phase construction effort is currently underway. The project addresses barriers the current facility presents; constraints in space for staff and equipment, remove the fleet and other publicly funded assets from the flood plain and assist in maintaining a state of good repair of the transit system.

The City of Mount Venron is in full support of Skagit Transit services and recognizes the need for this vital facility which will enable the transit system to keep pace with current and future public transportation needs of the City and neighboring communities and counties in Northwest Washington.

Sincerely;

Jil Boudreau



### **CITY OF ANACORTES**

Laurie Gere, Mayor 904 6th Street Anacortes, WA 98221 www.anacorteswa.gov

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

Letter of Support Sent via Email

Re: Letter of Support for Skagit Transit's RAISE grant application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

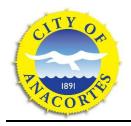
I am writing in support of Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in US Department of Transportation RAISE grant program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project.

The project will replace the current facility which serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future.

Skagit Transit's local network of transit routes serve Skagit County's four major population centers, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Burlington and Anacortes.

Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient commuter transit services. Commuter bus operations are coordinated with neighboring transits and intercity bus and rail services providing public transportation connections within the northwestern region of Washington State. These services assist in the Statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

As Mayor of the City of Anacortes, I understand that investment in public transportation has the potential to improve traffic safety, air quality, accessibility, and so many other benefits. The City of Anacortes has a walkable and vibrant downtown corridor that is benefited by public transportation. Public transportation not only contributes to an increase in public health due to increase bicyclers and walkers but also because it increases foot traffic to our central business district. It also provides a connection to medical appointments, educational institutions, workforce opportunities. Investing in our public transportation infrastructure will bring many benefits and provide the necessary support for our citizens as we work towards having more sustainable, and accessible transportation options.



### **CITY OF ANACORTES**

Laurie Gere, Mayor 904 6th Street Anacortes, WA 98221 www.anacorteswa.gov

Skagit Transit's Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility is a regionally significant project that is shovel ready, Phase one of the three phase construction effort is currently underway.

The project addresses barriers the current facility presents; constraints in space for staff and equipment, remove the fleet and other publicly funded assets from the flood plain and assist in maintaining a state of good repair of the transit system.

The City of Anacortes is in full support of Skagit Transit services and recognizes the need for this vital facility which will enable the transit system to keep pace with current and future public transportation needs of the City of Anacortes and neighboring communities and counties in Northwest Washington.

Sincerely,

Mayor Laurie Gere

James M. New



#### CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

Sedro-Woolley Municipal Building 325 Metcalf Street Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 Phone (360) 855-1661 Fax (360) 855-0707

Julia Johnson, Mayor jjohnson@ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Elaine Chao Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

#### Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Sedro Woolley, I am writing to express support of Skagit Transit's application to the USDOT'S BUILD Grant Program titled "Skagit Transit Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Renovation and Expansion Project – Phase II" in Skagit County, Washington. The requested funds are for the completion of Phase II of the project, which will renovate the east end of the facility to complete the administrative and public use areas of the project.

Skagit Transit's current facility was constructed in 1998, designed for use by 43 revenue vehicles to operate two modes of service. Today, Skagit Transit has 118 revenue vehicles and five modes of service within the same 4-acre site (including regional transportation services). A recent feasibility study to identify space needs for current and future growth of Skagit Transit, demonstrated that Skagit Transit's needs for operations will require both the facility and outdoor space to double in size, this increase will provide sufficient room for growth for the next 40 years.

Along with the capacity constraints the current site is also located in the 100 year flood plain. In the event of a flood Skagit Transit will have to move operations to another site while responding to emergent community needs as a key transportation service provider for the Skagit County Emergency Response System. The infrastructure will be in place with the completion of Phase II and will be ready and able to respond to such emergencies, i.e. office spaces, meeting areas and communication systems.

The new completed Maintenance, Operations and Administration facility will contribute to the local economy, first through construction, and then over time through expansion of transit services in Sedro-Woolley, providing for an increasing population needing access to jobs and services.

We support this investment in transit infrastructure to enable growth and improvement in transit services to our community. We recognize the importance of Skagit Transit's services and its contribution it makes to our city's economy, air quality, and the City of Sedro Woolley residents quality of life.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project, we appreciate your support. It addresses significant community needs and I offer it my unconditional support.

Sincerely,

Julia Johnson, Mayor

City of Sedro-Woolley



June 11, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

RE: 2021 RAISE Grant Program

Skagit Transit Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Island Transit, I am writing in support of Skagit Transit's request for \$10M in RAISE grant program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project.

This project is located in an adjoining county to ours. Skagit Transit is a transit partner and carries residents from our county. Island Transit considers the new facility project important to serve our present and future customers, as well as the connectivity throughout the region.

We urge you to support this funding request.

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Sincerely,

Todd E. Morrow Executive Director



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

June 4, 2021

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express Whatcom Transportation Authority's (WTA's) support for Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in US Department of Transportation RAISE Grant Program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility.

The project will replace the current facility which is Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This is needed not only to maintain current levels of transit service, but to prepare the agency for the public transportation needs of the future.

Skagit Transit's local network of transit routes serve Skagit County's four major population centers, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Burlington and Anacortes. The agency also works with neighboring transit agencies as well as with intercity bus and rail services to provide regional connections throughout northwestern Washington State. These services assist in the statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor, and to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

As a key partner in Skagit Transit's efforts to provide quality regional public transportation, Whatcom Transportation Authority fully supports Skagit Transit's grant funding request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Les Reardanz General Manager

Whatcom Transportation Authority



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

July 1, 2021

Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in US Department of Transportation RAISE grant program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future.

As Chairman of the Samish Indian Nation, I recognize the importance of Skagit Transit services to support our citizens for their transportation needs. A strengthened Skagit Transit system will increase the resilience of Samish citizenry and increase our mobility locally as well as regionally through direct and coordinated connections with other transit agencies.

Skagit Transit's Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility is regionally significant, and phase one of the three-phase construction effort is currently underway. This project addresses space constraints for staff and equipment, allows for relocating fleet and other-publicly funded assets from the nearby flood plain, and assists in maintaining a state of good repair of the entire transit system.

Samish is in full support of Skagit Transit services and recognizes the need for this critical infrastructure which will enable the transit system to keep pace with current and future public transportation needs for our community and neighboring communities in Northwest Washington.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Wooten

There of the same

Chairman



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington DC, 20590

June 1, 2021

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing in support of Skagit Transit's request for \$10,000,000 in US Department of Transportation RAISE grant program funds to complete their Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Project. The project will replace the current facility which serves as Skagit County's only public transportation base of operations. This vital facility is needed to maintain current levels of transit service and prepare the agency for Skagit County's public transportation needs of the future.

Skagit Transit's local network of transit routes serves our County's four major population centers, Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley, Burlington, and Anacortes. Skagit Transit also offers direct, expedient commuter transit services. Commuter bus operations are coordinated with neighboring transits and intercity bus and rail services, providing public transportation connections within the northwestern region of Washington State. These services assist in the Statewide effort to reduce congestion on the Interstate 5 corridor and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

As President/CEO of the Mount Vernon Chamber I am quite aware and appreciative of the important service that Skagit Transit provides to our area. It is essential to our residents, our businesses, and our economy. People depend on it to get to work and to access services, and to stay connected. As our region continues to grow so will the demand for Skagit Transit's service, for which they must be prepared.

Skagit Transit's Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility is a regionally significant project that is shovel ready, Phase one of the three phase construction effort is currently underway. The project addresses barriers the current facility presents; constraints in space for staff and equipment, remove the fleet and other publicly funded assets from the flood plain and assist in maintaining a state of good repair of the transit system.

The Mount Vernon Chamber is in full support of Skagit Transit services and recognizes the need for this vital facility which will enable the transit system to keep pace with current and future public transportation needs of the Mount Vernon and neighboring communities and counties in Northwest Washington.

Sincerely,

President/CEO

President/CEO

Promote our members and actively encourage economic growth.

Promote our members and actively encourage economic growth.

Promote our members and actively encourage economic growth.