April 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of Skagit Transit’s application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants to support 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 renovate 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,

Patty Murray
United States Senator
February 27, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to request your careful consideration of Skagit Transit’s application for $10 million in funding through the Federal Transit Administration’s Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program.

Skagit Transit would use these funds to renovate the administrative and public use areas of a new facility to help meet current rider demand and prepare for future expansion. Skagit Transit provides fixed-route, ADA paratransit, commuter bus and vanpool program services in Skagit County out of a twenty-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 over 45 vanpool groups for more than 700,000 riders annually; this large operation requires an increase in personnel and capacity.

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 for future use of electric transit vehicles.

For these reasons, I ask that you give full and fair consideration to Skagit Transit’s application for funding through the Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress  
Washington State, 2nd District
February 18, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Washington State Department of Transportation is pleased to support Skagit Transit’s 2020 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.

This project is an integral phase on the path to completion of the new facility. When completed the new facility will allow Skagit Transit to increase service over time, as well as meet the growing demand for public transit service within the region. We hope that you’ll give this project your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
Secretary of Transportation
February 10, 2020

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

RE: Support for Skagit Transit’s USDOT BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Skagit Council of Governments – the metropolitan planning organization for the Mount Vernon Washington urbanized area – I am writing to express support for Skagit Transit’s application to the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program titled “Skagit Transit Maintenance Operations and Administration Facility Renovation and Expansion Project – Phase II” in Skagit County, Washington. The requested $10 million is for 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. The project is included as a planned project within the Skagit 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, the federally compliant metropolitan transportation plan for our region.

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 5 modes of service within the same 4-acre site (including regional transportation services). A recent space needs study 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 capacity constraints, the current site is also located in a 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 necessary to be ready and able to respond to such emergencies (i.e. office spaces, meeting areas and communication systems) will be in place with the completion of Phase II.

The new Maintenance, Operations and Administration facility will contribute to the local economy first through construction and construction support activities, then over time through expansion of transit services that access jobs. By allowing for the expansion of transit services, the project supports access to employment within the three economically distressed Opportunity Zones designated in our metropolitan planning area.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. It addresses significant regional needs and I offer it my unconditional support.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kevin Murphy
Executive Director
February 18, 2020

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 Skagit County, we are writing to express our 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 needed to be ready and able to respond to such emergencies, i.e. office spaces, meeting areas and communication systems, will be in place with the completion of Phase II.

The local economy will benefit from the new completed Maintenance, Operations and Administration facility first through construction and construction support activities, then over time through expansion of transit services for access to jobs. By allowing for the expansion of transit services, the project supports the mobility needs of those that live, work and play here. Skagit County has been experiencing an increase in population, economic and housing growth and congestion projections of Skagit County especially within the Opportunity Zones designated in Mount Vernon, Anacortes and Sedro-Woolley.
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 to our county’s economy, air quality, and quality of life.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Skagit Transit’s project. It addresses significant community needs and we offer it our unconditional support.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Ron Wesen, Chair
Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner
Lisa Janicki, Commissioner
March 4, 2020

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 Skagit County Department of Emergency Management, we are writing to express our 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). Skagit Transit’s current facility has reached its capacity to support transit operations.

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 necessary to be ready and able to respond to such emergencies, i.e. office spaces, meeting areas and communication systems, will be in place with the completion of Phase II.

We support this investment in transit infrastructure and recognize the importance of Skagit Transit’s services and its contribution it makes to our county’s safety and quality of life.

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

Sincerely,

Hans B Kahl  
Interim Director  
Skagit County Department of Emergency Management

hkahl@co.skagit.wa.us  
(O): 360-416-1855  
(M): 360-661-4853
March 4, 2020

K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Office of the Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Williams,

On behalf of Skagit County Department of Emergency Management, we are writing to express our support of Skagit Transit’s application to the Bus and Bus Facilities 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). Skagit Transit’s current facility has reached its capacity to support transit operations.

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 necessary to be ready and able to respond to such emergencies, i.e. office spaces, meeting areas and communication systems, will be in place with the completion of Phase II.

We support this investment in transit infrastructure and recognize the importance of Skagit Transit’s services and its contribution it makes to our county’s safety and quality of life.

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

Sincerely,

Hans B Kahl
Interim Director
Skagit County Department of Emergency Management

hkahl@co.skagit.wa.us
(O): 360-416-1855
(M): 360-661-4853

Committed to the protection of life, property and the environment.
March 6, 2020

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

RE: Skagit Transit Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility Renovation and Expansion Project – Phase II
USDOT BUILD Grant Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of Island Transit, I am writing to express support of Skagit Transit’s USDOT BUILD grant application for Phase II of the Skagit Transit Maintenance, Operations, and Administration (MOA) Facility Renovation and Expansion Project. The funding for the second phase of three will complete the final renovation of an existing warehouse, previously used as a UPS distribution center, into the agency’s administration offices and public use areas.

Island Transit considers the new facility project important to better serve our present and future customers and the connectivity throughout the region. This project is an integral phase on the path to completion of the new facility. We urge you to support this funding request.

Sincerely,

Todd E. Morrow
Executive Director
February 10, 2020

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 Whatcom Transportation Authority, I am writing to express my 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.

This project will complete the administrative and public use area of the new facility which will allow Skagit Transit to increase transit service over time, as well as meet the growing demand for public transit service within the region.

As partners with Skagit Transit in connecting northern Puget Sound residents to the highly populated Central Puget Sound, we support their opportunity to keep pace with our region’s growth and transportation needs in the ongoing effort to provide access to employment, education, health care and other services, and of reducing congestion on our highways.

Whatcom Transportation Authority considers the new facility project critical to better serve our present and future customers and the connectivity throughout the region. This project is an integral phase in the path to completion of the new facility. We urge you to support this funding request.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Stark  
General Manager

4011 Bakerview Spur, Bellingham, WA 98226-8066  www.ridewta.com  (p) 360-676-7433  (f) 360-788-9451
February 10, 2020

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 Mount Vernon, I am writing to express my 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 necessary to be ready and able to respond to such emergencies, i.e. office spaces, meeting areas and communication systems, will be in place with the completion of Phase II.

The new completed Maintenance, Operations and Administration facility will contribute to the local economy first through construction and construction support activities, then over time through expansion of transit services for access to jobs. By allowing for the expansion of transit services, the project supports our ability to deliver services for the mobility needs of those that live, work and play here particularly considering an increasing population, economic and housing growth and congestion projections of Mount Vernon especially within the Mount Vernon Opportunity Zones.

We support this investment in transit infrastructure to enable growth and improvement in transit services to our communities. 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 Mount Vernon 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,

Jill Boudreau
Mayor
April 1, 2020

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 and Sedro-Woolley’s Opportunity Zone, 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
March 16th, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is pleased to support Skagit Transit's 2020 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 and expand the existing administration and public use areas of the facility.

Skagit Transit's current facility was constructed in 1998, designed for use by 6 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 service. 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 is projected to provide sufficient room for growth for the next 40 years.

This project is an integral phase on the path to completion of the new facility. When completed, the new facility will allow Skagit Transit to increase service over time, as well as meet the growing demand for public transit service within the region.

I hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,