

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

June 29, 2016

The Honorable Carolyn Flowers  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Acting Administrator Flowers:

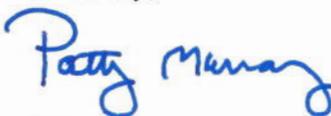
I am writing in support of an application submitted by RiverCities Transit to the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program for the Downtown Longview Transit Center Expansion project.

RiverCities Transit is seeking a Buses and Bus Facilities grant to expand an existing transit center located in the City of Longview's downtown area. This project would increase capacity by providing additional space for staff and improving public access to buses, facilities, and staff. RiverCities Transit has grown from 17 to 33 employees over the past eight years. Upgrades to this regional transit center would also complement the City of Longview's efforts to improve the city's downtown.

In response to requests from residents and commuters for more frequent and expanded services, RiverCities Transit developed a Transit Enhancement Plan in 2010 and added new routes and increased service on existing routes in 2013. Specifically, a new cross town route was added, other routes were re-designed, and timed stops and transfer points were established. As a result, ridership has increased by 18 percent in the last two years. Due in part to the expanded service, RiverCities Transit's transit center has become too small. This expansion would enhance RiverCities Transit's efforts to provide reliable and efficient public transportation for residents and businesses in the City of Longview and City of Kelso service area.

Thank you for your consideration of RiverCities Transit's application. Please contact Shavenor Winters in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator