

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

November 14, 2017

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

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the Kitsap County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (Kitsap Transit) to the Federal Transit Administration's *Passenger Ferry Grant Program* for the Fast Ferry Terminal Modifications project.

Kitsap Transit is seeking a Passenger Ferry Grant to make modifications to two existing ferry terminals in Bremerton and Kingston to support their new passenger-only Kitsap Fast Ferries service. This project would improve vessel moorage, basic vessel functions, passenger and crew loading and unloading, and vessel maintenance activities. Kitsap Transit began Kitsap Fast Ferries service between Bremerton and downtown Seattle in July, and plans to begin service between Kingston and downtown Seattle in the summer of 2018.

The Bremerton and Kingston ferry terminals are not currently equipped to safely and efficiently accommodate the Kitsap Fast Ferries service and its anticipated growth. The areas surrounding these ferry terminals is expected to experience a nearly 50 percent increase in employment and a nearly 90 percent increase in population by 2040. The Bremerton ferry terminal is not designed to support the long-term service levels planned for this route. The Kingston ferry terminal has not been used for passenger ferry services in recent years. This project would increase safety for passengers and crewmembers, ensure ADA accessibility, and improve vessel maintenance and service reliability.

Kitsap County residents recognized the importance of the Kitsap Fast Ferries service, and demonstrated their commitment in November 2016 through passage of a ballot measure to increase the local sales tax to fund the operating costs. The Fast Ferry Terminal Modifications project would better accommodate current and future use of the Kitsap Fast Ferries service and improve transit connections for Kitsap County residents to centers of employment, education, and other services in the greater Puget Sound region.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Murray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patty Murray
United States Senator