

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 1, 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 Low or No Emission Bus Competitive Grant Program to provide more efficient and sustainable public transportation.

RiverCities Transit is seeking a Low or No Emission Bus grant to replace two of the oldest biodiesel buses in their fleet with two new low floor, biodiesel buses. As their existing buses break down more frequently, RiverCities Transit's small fleet of 14 vehicles is strained and repairs often result in service disruptions. RiverCities Transit has a strong history of deploying more environmentally sustainable buses, and is currently operating an all biodiesel fleet.

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 vehicles are traveling more miles and are in service longer. These new biodiesel buses would enhance RiverCities Transit's efforts to provide a reliable and sustainable public transportation system 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