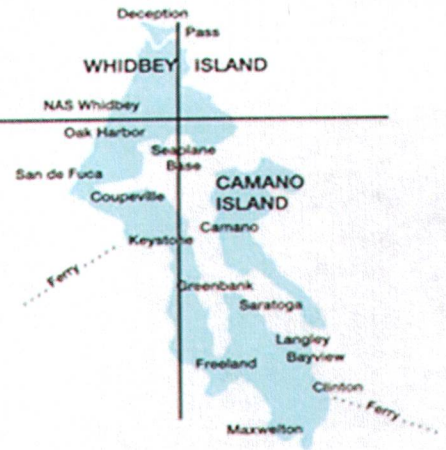


Island County Board of Commissioners

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November 10, 2021

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Federal Transit Administration Section 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities – Washington State Department of Transportation

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I write today in support of Island Transit and its Buses and Bus Facilities grant application submitted by the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Island Transit, a rural transit provider in Island County, seeks funding to purchase five new zero emission, battery-electric vehicles to utilize for a new on-demand service pilot project.

Island County is rural yet has one of the greatest percentages of the elderly and veterans in Washington State. Island Transit's project will provide service to disadvantaged populations who are unable to use fixed route and paratransit services, often because of where they reside in Island County. This population regularly forfeits access to employment, medical, social, educational, and recreational providers, due to either, not having a car or not living close enough to a bus route. Their pilot project affords a sustainable and carbon-neutral way to meet unmet needs as well as climate health.

This project directly supports the mission, goals and strategies of Island County's 20-year regional transportation plan, *Island Access 2040*, and the county's Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP).

On behalf of the Island Regional Transportation Planning Organization, I am pleased to support this application for funding, and I urge your full and fair consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bacon
Island County Commissioner and IRTPO Chair