

May 20, 2009

Mr. Walter Kulyk  
Federal Transit Administration  
Office of Mobility Innovation

Dear Mr. Kulyk:

FTA Research Program Grant for Kitsap Transit

This letter is to support the Washington Green Bus project that Kitsap Transit has submitted as a funding request on behalf of a large proportion of the transit systems in the state of Washington. The State of Washington and the entire nation use a significant number of small buses in ACCESS/Dial-a-Ride and small town routed service. The small buses Kitsap Transit uses get much better mileage than the large buses customarily associated with transit; however, the small buses should get even better mileage than they currently do and should be of low-floor design. These small buses essentially specialize in carrying elderly and disabled passengers and almost exclusively use elaborate wheel-chair lifts to raise passengers about 3 feet to the level of the bus floor. This time-consuming procedure makes the service take longer and cost more than it needs to and has a history of accidents causing injuries to the elderly and disabled passengers and to drivers as well when they are trying to assist the patrons.

The Green Bus, of which Western Washington University Vehicle Research Institute (WWU VRI) has a nearly completed design, would weigh roughly half of what current small buses weigh, would have a low floor for boarding speed and safety and would have improved electric and hybrid drive trains that Kitsap Transit believes will cut its fuel consumption for this type of service almost in half.

Finally, unlike most motor vehicles of any size this is a sub-market where the State of Washington has an opportunity to compete effectively. It isn't Detroit that is the world leader in carbon fiber and other forms of composite, light-weight construction, but rather the greater Seattle area. Kitsap Transit hopes that by pursuing this alternative technology and then later committing to group purchases it could secure a competitive builder of this type of bus to support the State's economy as well as Kitsap Transit's needs.

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency urges you to support the request submitted by Kitsap Transit to your office. There are 15 transit systems, a clear majority

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Dennis J. McLerran

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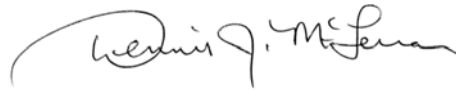
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of the State of Washington's 27 transit systems, that believe this is a project essential to their continued cost control and their ability to offer more and better service in this crucial and growing arena. If you can assist Kitsap Transit in any way, we believe it would be a benefit to the Puget Sound region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. McLerran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dennis J. McLerran  
Executive Director

DJM/lh

cc: Gayle Thomson, Kitsap Transit