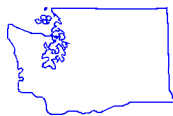


MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 4, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Challenge Grants, FTA-2020-012-TRI- AIM

Dear Administrator Williams,

I am writing in support of Kitsap Transit and Washington Maritime Blue Fast Foil Ferry Team's application to the Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) grant program for their "Electric Fast Foil Ferry: Re-imagining the Mosquito Fleet for Accelerating Passenger Ferry Innovation" project.

Washington Maritime Blue is a cluster organization of private companies, public agencies and non-profit institutions created by Governor Inslee to implement the Washington State Maritime Blue Strategy, which aims to foster innovation, sustainability and decarbonization of the maritime sector.

This funding would support the Electric Fast Foil Ferry demonstration project, which meets multiple goals under the Maritime Blue Strategy. Specifically the project would help electrification of state and regional ferries in an effort to reduce both noise and air pollution. This is critically important to improving mobility while protecting our environment. Of particular importance, the reduction in vessel noise is a key goal in the protection of Southern resident orcas, which are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The innovative foil ferry offers a safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation option, while minimizing the environmental impact on air, water quality and marine life. According to the applicants, the Electric Fast Foil Ferry project aims to develop an electric high-speed hydrofoil passenger ferry design with a lightweight carbon fiber hull and establish a replicable business model for fast ferry passenger service. Grant funding will enable the applicant to study the feasibility of a regional public-private strategy and solve challenges related to technical, safety, operational and financial feasibility.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration to Kitsap Transit and Washington Maritime Blue Fast Foil Ferry Team's application.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator