

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

September 25, 2015

Lucy Garliauskas, Associate Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Associate Administrator Garliauskas:

I strongly support the application submitted by Community Transit, the agency serving Snohomish County, to the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts/Small Starts Grant Program for the *Swift II* Bus Rapid Transit line. This investment is of critical importance. *Swift II* will connect a Regional Growth Center with a Regional Manufacturing Industrial Center that help drive the economy of Washington state.

Swift is Washington state's first bus rapid transit line, connecting riders to more than 14 stations along a 17 mile north-south route between major cities in southwest Snohomish County. *Swift* served more than 1.5 million riders last year and ridership has increased by 30 percent since operation began in 2009. Due to the reliability of service, frequent departures, and speed, *Swift* has become a transportation mode that workers, families, students, and shoppers depend on as they access the growing commercial corridor along Highway 99.

Swift II will provide the 65,000 employees at the Boeing/Paine Field Manufacturing Center to the north and the 25,000 employees in the Canyon Park Regional Growth Center to the south with a rapid transit option for their daily commute. *Swift II* is expected to have 3,300 boardings each weekday in the first year, mitigating existing chronic congestion along major thoroughfares that are caused, in part, by workers with limited transportation options commuting in single-occupancy vehicles. This project will leverage existing improvements to local transportation infrastructure in order to alleviate dangerous and costly choke points along those routes. Further, its development is key to the success of the new Seaway Transit Center adjacent to the Boeing manufacturing facility.

Expanding transit options is a critical regional priority as Snohomish County prepares for an additional 192,000 residents by 2025. *Swift II* has the full support of key government, industry, and community partners including the Washington state Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the cities of Everett, Mill Creek, and Bothell, Snohomish County, and the Boeing Company. I applaud the Federal Transit Administration's previous recognition of this project's merit with funding for project development and I encourage its continued support.

I request full and fair consideration of Community Transit's application to New Starts/Small Starts Grant Program for the *Swift II* Bus Rapid Transit line. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator

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