



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 27, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my support of Connect Transit's application to the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year 2018 Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program (Bus and Bus Infrastructure Program). Connect Transit is the primary public transit system servicing the Bloomington-Normal metropolitan region in Illinois. Connect Transit has continuously provided safe, affordable, reliable, and accessible service to a population of over 130,000 residents.

To continue its commitment of providing excellent service to a region with increasing ridership, Connect Transit is applying for federal assistance to secure 10 electric buses and 20 bus shelters and benches, as well as aid in the construction of a new Downtown Transfer Center. The award of this funding supports the core objectives of the Bus and Bus Infrastructure Program and will ensure Connect Transit's service and amenities will maintain its high standard of operating in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible, while maintaining safety, accessibility, and reliability of service.

Reliable, efficient, and safe transportation network is vital for members of our community as well as commerce. These projects represent a strategic investment to help improve the quality of public transportation service while maximizing returns on public investments and supporting the deployment of technologically advanced US-made transit buses. Thank you for considering Connect Transit's application.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress