

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in support of the Greater Portland Transit District's (GPTD) application to the Federal Transit Administration's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. If awarded, GPTD seeks to replace two 35-foot buses in its fleet that have exceeded their useful life.

GPTD has made a series of successful improvements over the last several years that have increased the reach, availability, and convenience of public transit in southern Maine. These improvements pushed annual boardings to 2.1 million in 2019, an 8 percent increase from 2018 and a 45 percent increase from 2013. With many new riders coming from all sectors of the community, the growing region needs replacement buses with larger passenger capacity and improved reliability and accessibility. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, increasing the size of our bus fleet in Maine is critical so that GPTD can increase service and reduce crowding on buses.


GPTD is requesting \$821,526 to fund the purchase of two model-year 2020 40-foot low floor, ramp-equipped, clean diesel buses to be manufactured by New Flyer under an existing contract. Replacing two of GPTD's model-year 2004 35-foot diesel buses that have exceeded their useful life within a reasonable timeframe will ensure lower operating and maintenance costs while minimizing service disruptions due to malfunctioning equipment.

Thank you for your attention to the Greater Portland Transit District's application. We urge your consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator