

November 8, 2019

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

Re: Town of Winter Park's Application for the Buses and Bus Facilities Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to request the Department of Transportation's full and fair consideration of the Town of Winter Park's application under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s Buses and Bus Facility grant program. The Town of Winter Park applied for \$12 million in funds to build a new and modern transit facility for its local public transportation system, the Lift.

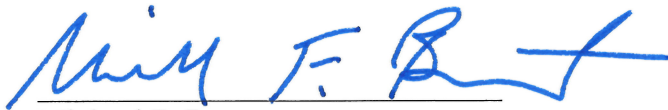
The Lift is the only form of public transportation in all of Grand County, providing crucial services to the communities of the Fraser Valley by connecting the towns of Winter Park, Fraser, and Granby. The bus fleet has over 500,000 riders who depend on the service to get them to their places of employment, health appointments, social events, and recreational opportunities. This transportation system also alleviates the pressure on these communities' limited housing stock by allowing residents to cast a wider net when searching for both housing and employment opportunities. Similarly, this accessibility has positively contributed to local economic development.

Unfortunately, the Lift is operating with 20-year-old buses that lack any covered storage area, which is taking a toll on the vehicles. The complete lack of a heated storage space for the buses causes premature aging, pounds of ice buildup on the bottom of the buses, and unsafe conditions for operators, riders, and maintenance technicians. A new transit facility would solve this problem.

Grand County and the Fraser Valley pooled together their limited resources to partner on this \$20 million project to ensure that safe and reliable public transportation continues to be available to their residents and guests. Winter Park has planned for a new transit facility since the Lift was created three years ago, and the town is confident in their ability to execute this operation in a way that sets the transportation system up for success well into the future. This community deserves a transit facility that adequately serves and provides opportunities of improvement and growth.

I appreciate the Department of Transportation's full and fair consideration of this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Bennet", with a horizontal line underneath the signature.

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator