



MCLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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April 7, 2020

The Honorable K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Connect Transit's Grant Application - Downtown Bloomington Transfer Center

Dear Acting Administrator Williams:

On behalf of the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) staff, I would like to express our support for Connect Transit's application to the Federal Transit Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program (49 U.S.C. 5339) for the Downtown Bloomington Transfer Center. The MCRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Bloomington-Normal urbanized area; partnering with a diverse array of public and private entities, developing policies and practices regarding land use, infrastructure, and community facilities.

Serving as a critical connection in the community, Connect Transit provides mobility for its residents and visitors who heavily rely on it in accessing essential services, education, and employment. This project represents a strategic investment to help ensure efficient, safe, and reliable bus and bus infrastructure while maximizing returns on public investments.

Connect Transit's Downtown Bloomington Transfer Center is included in MCRPC's adopted Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2020-2024. The construction of this Transfer Center will improve transportation service for the region, increase economic development, and enhance safety. Furthermore, this project would allow Connect Transit to reduce inefficiencies that limit the current transfer point; maximizing on-time performance and improvement system performance across the entire system.

Thank you for considering Connect Transit's application and ensuring the region has access to safe and reliable transportation services and infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Raymond Lai, AICP
Executive Director

MCRPC is the leader for planning tomorrow's McLean County

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Diana Hauman • Taunia Leffler • Carl Olson • Michael Pettorini • Carl Teichman • Mark Wylie