

United States Senate

April 24, 2020

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
SMALL BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Office of Program Management
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Acting Administrator Williams:

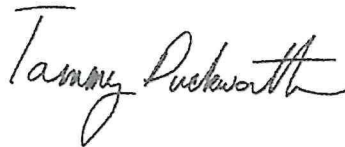
I write to express my support for Connect Transit's application to the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program offered by the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This grant funding will enable residents in the Bloomington-Normal metropolitan region to safely commute by advancing Connect Transit's plans for a Downtown Transfer Center.

Connect Transit is the primary public transit system servicing the Bloomington-Normal community, and has continuously provided safe, affordable, reliable, and accessible service to a population of over 130,000 residents. In order to continue its commitment of providing excellent service to a region with increasing ridership, Connect Transit is applying for \$8 million towards its Downtown Transfer Center. A new Downtown Transfer Center would reduce inefficiencies that limit the current transfer point, and allow for increased routing efficiencies for maximized on-time performance. The transfer center will also improve access for existing transit users and transit dependent customers by providing a safe and convenient place to access transit, out of the elements, with increased customer service.

During my time as a U.S. Senator and a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee, I have made modernizing Illinois' transportation systems one of my top priorities. The proposed project is consistent with need for a transit facility identified by local authorities. Federal funding for this project would support the core objectives of the 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities grant program expanding transit access, enhancing safety standards and improving the overall passenger experience.

Please accept this letter of support for Connect Transit's application to the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give their application your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my State Director, Cameron Joost, at (217) 528-6124.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator