

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20509

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support the City of Appleton's (City) application for Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. If awarded, funding will help support the completion of Valley Transit's Whitman Facility Renovation Project to renew its administration, maintenance, and bus storage facility located at 801 S. Whitman Avenue in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Serving the community for over 45 years, Valley Transit currently operates transit service throughout nine different communities and three counties within the Fox Cities region in east central Wisconsin. The existing Whitman Facility was constructed in 1983, and according to the City, current service needs have exceeded the capacity of the outdated facility. As the population in the Fox Cities and beyond expands, the City maintains the Whitman Facility Renovation Project is essential for Valley Transit to continue providing safe, accessible, and reliable transit service across the region.

Per the City, the Whitman Facility Renovation Project consists of updated maintenance bays, a new fueling and bus wash lane, and an expanded bus storage area. The renovated facility will also implement the latest in sustainability, resiliency, and green energy. The sustainability aspects of the project will include a PV solar array, rainwater collection for bus washing, geothermal heating and cooling, smart grid technologies, energy storage, hydrogen fueling, EV charging and microgrid capabilities. According to the City, these upgrades are vital to Valley Transit's service expansion and zero-emission fleet transition planning.

I strongly support proposals that invest in transit infrastructure and help to improve connectivity in our communities. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the City of Appleton's Low or No Emission and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program application. Please keep my office updated on the progress of this application by email at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator