

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2022

Ms Amy Volz, Office of Program Management
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Volz,

I write to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) for funding from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) 5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program. Federal aid from FTA would help COAST finance the construction of a new administration, operations and maintenance facility in Dover, NH. This project can be transformational for public transit in the region.

COAST was founded in 1981 with a mission of providing customer-focused public transportation options that connect towns and cities in the Seacoast area of New Hampshire and Maine. These essential services are critically important to multiple disadvantaged communities in the region (per the U.S. Department of Transportation's Justice40 initiative) as well as the climate change expectations outlined under Executive Order 14008. Its small and outdated current facility severely limits its potential to achieve this mission. A recent building assessment completed in January 2019 outlined multiple imperative building repair issues due to age, significant building code and safety deficiencies and a lack of accessibility. Space issues also require COAST to house its staff at multiple sites. Estimates reveal that the size of the current facility would need to be doubled in order to accommodate all staff and position COAST to respond to evolving public needs.

COAST would use funding from FTA to help finance the construction of a new facility that would help sustain transit operations in the 13 community Greater Seacoast Region of New Hampshire and Maine. A modern facility would also reduce COAST's ongoing operating costs, improve its quality of services, support regional economic growth and prepare for a future transition to an electric vehicle fleet. COAST is well positioned to advance this project once funding is awarded. It is moving forward with its design to obtain permitting after raising just over \$4M of funding for this project, and it has multiple other grant applications currently being evaluated. COAST views funding through the FTA's 5339(b) program as an important part in the overall equation for its project.

I strongly encourage your consideration for the funding request from the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Jarvis in my office at jon_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov or 603-647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator