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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for ECO Transit's FY2023 CDOT Supercall grant proposal to acquire three (3) new 40' transit buses. The provision of safe, affordable, and environmentally friendly transportation choices is a critical element of Eagle County's mission of "Creating a Better Eagle County for All." As the County Manager responsible for implementing this vision, I encourage you to look favorably upon this project.

ECO Transit is a rural transit agency that connects communities along the I-70 corridor including Vail, Avon, Eagle, Gypsum, and Leadville, in west-central Colorado. ECO service extends for more than 70 miles one-way, and provides over 1 million trips per year to residents and visitors. ECO connects to local transit systems in Vail, Avon, and Beaver Creek, as well as the Eagle County Regional Airport and state-wide Bustang transit service.

ECO Transit service is critical to maintaining economic vitality and quality of life in Eagle County. ECO provides safe, affordable, reliable transportation for a diverse community that faces high housing costs and long commutes to work, school, and health care. It reduces traffic congestion coming into and out of job and entertainment centers such as Vail, Avon, and Beaver Creek. Last but not least, it mitigates the impacts of traffic and population growth on our air quality and natural environment - critical assets for our outdoor-oriented economy.

Eagle County's challenging operating environment takes its toll on transit vehicles. This grant funding vehicles will allow ECO to retire three older, less reliable diesel buses and acquire new cleaner diesel replacements. Grant funding for capital replacement is critical as demand for transit in our region is growing and local resources are not sufficient to meet all our needs. ECO transit is funded by a dedicated 0.5% sales tax that generates approximately \$11 million dollars per year for transit and trails. The County is prepared to allocate required matching funds as part of the budget process. The proposed project will not cause duplicative efforts and it ensures efficient and effective use of grant funds. I have full confidence in this project and encourage you to support ECO Transit in their efforts to improve mobility by maintaining their transit fleet in a state of good repair.

Sincerely,

Jeff Shroll

County Manager