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April 12, 2024

Veronica Vanterpool
Office of the Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: Eagle County Government's support for Eagle Valley Transportation Authority's FTA 5339 and Low or No Emission Vehicle Program Grant Request

Dear Acting Administrator Vanterpool,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Eagle Valley Transportation Authority's (EVTA) application for the FTA's 5339 and Low or No Emission grant to program to replace five diesel buses with five new 40' Gillig hybrid buses.

This grant will be used to replace five vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life, improving the age, condition, and emissions profile of the EVTA fleet as the EVTA assumes responsibility for operating the ECO Transit system and begins to expand service under the auspices of the newly-formed regional transportation authority. In November of 2022, voters in seven jurisdictions in Eagle County approved the formation of the EVTA, along with a new 0.5% dedicated sales tax to enhance and expand service, including implementation of a fare-free transit zone and increased emphasis on reducing overall vehicle emissions. Replacing aging service vehicles will strengthen its foundation as we move into this new era for transportation in our region.

Eagle County's mission is "Creating a Better Eagle County for All," and increasing transit and transportation options is an important element of our Strategic Plan. Eagle County is a founding member of the EVTA and supports this grant application because it will improve the EVTA's capacity to provide reliable, affordable day-to-day workforce transportation; encourage visitors to leave cars behind, providing an alternative single-car travel route on the overburdened I-70; and contribute to the County's Greenhouse Gas reduction goals by reducing carbon emissions.

Regional Transportation service provided by the EVTA is a critical component of our regional transit system that supports economic vitality and quality of life for all residents and visitors. We encourage your thoughtful consideration and approval of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeff Shroll
County Manager