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July 24, 2018

Mr. Matthew Welbes
Executive Director
U.S. Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, DC 20509

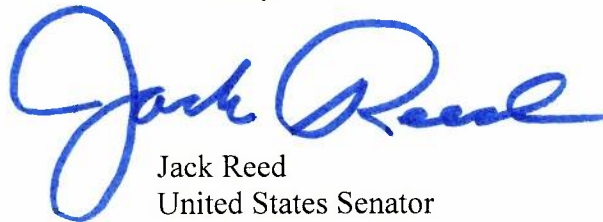
Dear Director Welbes:

I write in support of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's (RIPTA) application for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No (Low-No) Emission Bus Program competitive grant.

RIPTA is seeking this funding to support its effort to implement its Green Fleet Transition Plan, which is designed to transition the RIPTA fleet to zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) buses. Funding through the Low-No program will help RIPTA upgrade the planned replacement of ten diesel buses to ten battery-electric buses. In addition to purchasing and equipping new buses, RIPTA will utilize grant funds to purchase support items key to the transition from pilot to fleet deployment, including charge management equipment, technical support, and workforce development. RIPTA will be committing more than \$4.67 million in local resources to this effort with funds largely derived from Rhode Island's share of settlement funds from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement. The combination of these funds with an FTA Low-No grant is a smart investment in the future of the RIPTA system, helping to reduce reliance on diesel fuel and to improve air quality.

I support RIPTA's proposal and request your consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations. If I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Albert of my Providence office at 401-528-5200. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator