

**COUNTY OF MERCER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**AARON T. WATSON**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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Deputy Administrator  
Executive Director  
Park Commission

April 27, 2021

*Sent regular mail and via email*

The Honorable Chris Smith  
U.S. Congressman, NJ District 4  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20515  
[jeff.sagnip@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeff.sagnip@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Smith:

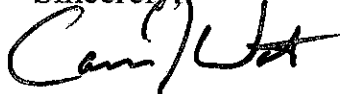
The County of Mercer is pleased to support the request to include the project, Mercer County Bus Purchase (DB #D1011), for funding consideration by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia Region, works with stakeholders like Mercer County to approve and advance Federal transportation infrastructure investment in the region.

The County of Mercer supports the project, Mercer County Bus Purchase (DB #D1011). It is a biennial local program of the FY2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey that allows for the replacement of buses used to operate the county's Transportation Resources To Aid The Disadvantaged And Elderly (TRADE) non-emergency transportation service, for Mercer County residents who are elderly (ages 60+) and to people with disabilities. The services provided to TRADE customers in Mercer County are a vital lifeline service, assisting in helping customers to meet their needs for transportation to medical, employment, nutrition and other critical destinations.

The full amount needed is \$915,000 and will be reflected in the Draft FY2022 NJ TIP. The \$915,000 would provide for the replacement of three (3) small cutaway buses, five (5) standard cutaway buses, and three (3) extended cutaway standard

floor buses. It has been increasingly challenging for the region and Mercer County to fund all current TIP projects at the full amount needed. Creating a modern multi-modal transportation system is part of DVRPC's vision for the Delaware Valley and Mercer County is a proud partner with DVRPC in meeting these goals. Targeted investments, such as this project, will support a project that will result in benefits for Greater Philadelphia, particularly for vulnerable residents in Mercer County.

Sincerely,



Aaron T. Watson  
Deputy Administrator

ATW/mgd

c: Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive  
Martin DeNero, Mercer County Director, TRADE  
Leslie R. Floyd, AICP/PP, Mercer County Planning Director  
Matthew Lawson, AICP/PP, GISP, Mercer County Principal Planner