

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. Congressman, NJ District 4
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) 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. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia Region which includes a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer in New Jersey, DVRPC works with stakeholders to approve and advance Federal transportation infrastructure investment in the region.

DVRPC 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 full amount needed is \$915,000 for FY22 and will be reflected in the current FY2020 and Draft FY2022 NJ TIP. The amount 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 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. Our transportation network is already expansive and interconnected. Targeted investments, such as this project, will enhance its performance and better integrate facilities that will result in benefits for Greater Philadelphia, particularly for vulnerable residents in Mercer County.

Sincerely,



Barry Seymour
Executive Director

CC (via e-mail):

Brian Hughes, County Executive, Mercer County
Aaron Watson, Deputy Administrator, Mercer County
Martin DeNero, Director, TRADE, Mercer County
Matthew Lawson, AICP/PP, GISP, Principal Planner-Transportation, Mercer County
Leslie R. Floyd, AICP/PP, Planning Director, Mercer County

BS:KH