

United States Senate

March 11, 2020

Ms. K. Jane Williams
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Office of the Administrator
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Williams:

I write in support of Topeka Metro and their grant application to the 2020 Bus and Bus Facilities 5339(a) program to further advance Kansas' capital city in its quality of transit amenities.

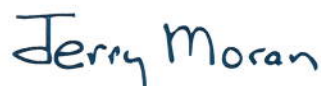
As a member of the Senate Subcommittee on Housing Transportation, and Community Development, I understand there are operational costs to our small urban transit providers as they work to connect our citizens with their communities. While Topeka Metro is working on the implementation of electric buses, they must also maintain a fleet of diesel buses while undergoing this transition.

In addition, public transit must protect itself from potential externalities like power outages and natural disasters. With these funds, Topeka Metro will be able to provide an electric utility redundant connection for resilience to electrical failure so operations can continue and buses can be charged. This program will also allow for solar-powered signage displays to be installed to assist customers without internet capabilities.

Working to eliminate hurdles and subsequent costs for taxpayers and transit ridership alike is how modern public transit can succeed. Affordability of local transit is vital to Kansas' economy because transporting a Kansas workforce has direct implications on the work product, efficiency and fiscal viability both personally and in the state's revenue streams.

Thank you for your consideration of Topeka Metro's application to improve its daily transit operations with assistance through the Bus and Bus Facilities 5339(a) grant program.

Very truly yours,



Jerry Moran