

April 17, 2019

K. Jane Williams, Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Re: Massachusetts State Low No Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the combined Massachusetts State Low No Grant. The Town of Chilmark is active in renewable energy efforts and is a founding member of the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA). The town wholeheartedly supports the VTA's pursuit of changing their fleet from diesel powered buses to electric buses.

The VTA has been assisting our Steamship Authority (SSA) as they work on replacing diesel buses running from the Palmer Ave parking lot in Falmouth to Woods Hole, MA with passengers boarding the ferries to Martha's Vineyard. The SSA borrowed one of the VTA electric buses for a month over the course of the winter and the vehicle was very well received.

The VTA has had six electric buses in service since August of 2018 and the buses have been received very well by our community. The VTA has six more electric buses coming in September 2019.

The VTA is asking for the incremental cost for two buses in this round of Low No funding, so they can continue to transition the fleet to all electric and maintain their State of Good Repair and Transit Asset Management goals. The SSA is also seeking the incremental cost of two buses.

We hope that the Federal Transit Administration will view the Massachusetts State Low No Grant application favorably and provide the funding needed to help our VTA, Steamship Authority and other agencies in MA begin or continue efforts towards electrification and cleaner air.

Sincerely,

Tim Carroll
Town Administrator