



Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency

August 26, 2009

Ronald Kilcoyne
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Bridgeport Transit
One Cross Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Re: Greater Bridgeport Transit Request for TIGER Funding

Dear Mr. Kilcoyne:

The Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency (GBRPA) fully supports the Greater Bridgeport Transit's application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The GBT provides essential and critical local fixed route bus and paratransit services in the Greater Bridgeport planning region, serving Bridgeport, Fairfield, Stratford, and Trumbull. Service extensions into Milford, Westport, Norwalk, Shelton, Monroe and Derby provide opportunities for area residents to travel to jobs located outside the region. The services provided by GBT play an integral part in the economic health of the Greater Bridgeport Region today and will become more critical to the region's growth in the future. Such public transportation services are essential to furthering the State's goals of responsible growth, economic development and sustainability.

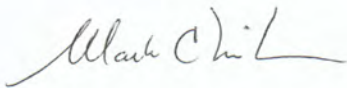
The project for which the GBT is requesting assistance will expand and complete a comprehensive and much needed rehabilitation of its administrative and maintenance facility. The improvements are essential for the GBT's sustained growth and for operational and safety purposes. The current facility was built in 1987 and houses all of the administrative, bus maintenance and bus storage activities of the GBT. Because of its age and growth of the GBT operations, the facility can no longer adequately accommodate all GBT functions and is in need of a major rehabilitation and expansion. While the GBT operates in an efficient manner, the facility is beyond capacity and its physical constraints hinder further operations and growth. The planned project will provide the additional space needed for vehicle maintenance, indoor storage, training, operations and administration. It will result in a modern, state-of-the-art facility that will incorporate and take advantage of the latest technologies, as well as other sustainable features such as photovoltaic power generation, a vegetative roof to reduce runoff and water reclamation system.

The Design Team of Wendel Duchscherer and Clough Harbour has been retained by GBT to design facility improvements to meet current needs and future growth. Site planning is underway and environmental work is about to begin.

The need to expand and rehabilitate the administration and maintenance facility has been assessed and studied as part of the long-range regional transportation planning process and has been identified as an essential improvement project in the plan. It is also consistent with the regional plan of conservation and development. The project has been added to the FFY 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as well as the State TIP, and, as such, it has been reviewed by and received the full support of the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO). The Connecticut Department of Transportation is supportive of the project by its concurrence in including it in the STIP. Because of these past GBVMPO reviews and actions and consistency with the long range transportation plan, it would be anticipated that the GBVMPO would be willing to adopt an amendment of the TIP to add the allocation of TIGER funds.

The GBRPA is committed to supporting transportation improvements that enhance and promote the use of public transit modes and provide greater mobility options. This project is one such project that will have a positive and profound effect on the growth of ridership on the local bus service in the region, as well as enhancing the safety and security of riders and making the ride much more attractive. The GBRPA is very excited about the prospects of the project and looks forward to partnering with the GBT in advancing it through the implementation process.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Nielsen
Executive Director