

Mayor and Council Offices

Mark Dion

Mayor

March 28, 2024



Mayor Mark Dion
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
mdion@portlandmaine.gov

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support Letter for Greater Portland Transit District's Application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Mayor of Portland, I am writing in full support of the Greater Portland Transit District's (GP Metro) participation in the Maine Department of Transportation's application to FTA's Section 5339 Low or No Emission Grant Program.

As part of that application, GP Metro is seeking funding to replace three of its 2011 diesel buses with three new battery electric buses, along with supporting electric charging infrastructure, and resources for training and workforce development. After GP Metro's deployment of its first two electric buses in May 2022 and observing these vehicles operate in service throughout our city during the last year, I have confidence in the agency's capacity to successfully implement this project. Further, I appreciate the agency's strong progress toward achieving a zero-emissions bus fleet before 2040.

Transportation is a critical component of any thriving community, and we are committed to investing in sustainable and environmentally-friendly transit options that will help our city achieve its climate and sustainability goals. Portland is a leader in climate action and has set a goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through our "One Climate Future" initiative. GP Metro's proposed project aligns perfectly with these goals and demonstrates our commitment to taking bold action to reduce transportation emissions.

In addition, the City of Portland's climate action plan, One Climate Future emphasizes the need to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and prioritize investments in electric transportation. The GP Metro's proposed project is a perfect example of this type of investment, and I am confident that it will help advance the City's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Replacing these three diesel buses with electric models will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful pollutants, but it will also save the GP Metro money in fuel and maintenance costs in the long run. As the City of Portland contributes substantial funding to GP Metro, I am grateful that these savings can be put to better use increasing the level of transit in our city.

I strongly urge you to consider the GP METRO's application for funding under the Low or No Emission Grant Program. This investment in our public transit system will provide a sustainable solution that will benefit our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dion", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Dion
Mayor
City of Portland, Maine