



Transportation Planning Board
A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

August 4, 2014

On behalf of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board, the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Madison Urban Area, I am endorsing the attached application by the City of Madison/Metro Transit for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5309 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities grant in support of its Ladders of Opportunity Initiative. The MPO is the policy body responsible for cooperative, comprehensive regional transportation planning and decision making for the Madison Metropolitan Planning Area. All of the items requested in this grant application are consistent with the MPO's long-range regional transportation plan and five-year Transit Development Plan, and the projects are included in the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP will be amended to reflect the programmed FTA funding should the grant be awarded.

When looking at transit projects in the area, increasing capacity for the existing transit system is a priority. Metro Transit has had record ridership in recent years and demand continues to grow. In addition to increased need for service in the core and to key employment centers, efforts are being made to develop a more regional transit system. Grant funding such as this will help in this effort by allowing Metro to provide the increased service that has been requested by Epic Systems in Metro's partner community of the City of Verona as Epic continues to grow and add employees.

Another goal we strive to meet is to help provide transportation service to communities where there is unmet need. The YWCA JobRide program, which will also be supported by this grant request, enables people with lower incomes get to jobs and job related activities such as job training, job interviews, and childcare. This service is closely coordinated with other transportation services in the area to avoid duplication – without it, many low income workers would likely lose their jobs.

This grant will help support initiatives and service that are of regional importance in this time of scarce resources. Thank you for considering this application.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Schaefer".

William Schaefer, Transportation Planning Manager
Madison Area Transportation Planning Board – An MPO

Cc: MPO Policy Board members