



## Office of the Mayor

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor

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On behalf of the City of Madison, the owner and operator of Metro Transit and a direct recipient of FTA funding in the Madison urbanized area, I am endorsing the attached application for a Federal Transit Administration Section 5309 Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities grant in support of its Ladders of Opportunity Initiative. This application is consistent with the City of Madison's approved capital improvement program for the purchase of buses to improve access to job centers and the replacement of vehicles in the YW Transit JobRide program. The City provides the local match for capital funding for such projects, and by this letter is committed to meeting that requirement for this grant. All of the items requested are part of the City of Madison's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as amended by the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (MPO).

The cutbacks in discretionary earmark funding, which Metro has used over the past 20 years for meeting basic replacement capital needs, has left a shortfall in federal funding for transit capital. Metro, along with other transit systems in our state, used the discretionary funds to help bridge the gap caused by the fact that Wisconsin receives about 1% of national transit capital funding, but has about 2% of the population in the United States.

Transit ridership in our community grew by 2.7% to 14.7 million rides in 2013, the second largest ridership in our recorded history. Moreover, 53% of bus ridership is used by passengers to get to jobs, and another 38% to get to school.

The introduction of this new federal grant, Ladders of Opportunity Initiative, is viewed by the City of Madison as a method to try to address our basic capital needs in the face of the elimination of discretionary earmarks and ongoing requests for increased transit service, particularly to employment centers such as Epic Systems, which recently added 800 employees, and the new UW Hospital East. I request favorable consideration of this request to help Madison and its partners continue to provide high quality public transportation in an era of increasing ridership and very challenging economic conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Soglin".

Paul R. Soglin  
Mayor