

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I write in support of the application submitted by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) for funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Buses and Bus Facilities Program to implement critical safety and accessibility improvements to bus facilities in the Bronx, in New York City. This funding will be used to improve the transportation experience of Bronx bus riders and nearby pedestrians enhancing safety, creating vibrant open spaces, and introducing crucial operational improvements to help provide environmental mitigation measures in underserved New York City neighborhoods.

Transit riders who rely on bus service need bus facilities that operate at the highest level of efficiency. NYC buses not only hold a critical role as a connection to other transportation options but hold a simple role for people who are unable to drive including those without access to personal vehicles, children and individuals with disabilities, and older adults. NYC DOT's comprehensive plan to address the required improvements needed to bring bus facilities and routes to standard is in alignment with the many proactive steps we are taking to build green infrastructure, improve transportation movement across all five boroughs of New York, and address the needs of communities that have disproportionately borne the burden of disinvestment in their neighborhoods. The project would be a major investment for New York City that would provide critical intersection upgrades, essential curb extensions, and significant pedestrian and vehicle safety improvements.

The requested funding will be used for intermodal stations underneath the Jerome Avenue elevated subway structure. Improvements will include sidewalk reconstruction, added seating, pedestrian-level lighting, wayfinding, and bike racks to enhance mobility and accessibility. The pedestrian improvements and bus stop extensions will also enhance bus operations by increasing passenger visibility, expediting pick-up and drop-off, and improving bus drivers' ability to navigate traffic. This project will help correct past disinvestments in the Bronx community and will also prepare the transit system for the impacts of rezoning, which will attract new residents to the area and new riders to the system.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abi Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator