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September 21, 2021

The Honorable Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
U.S. Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) for funding from the Fiscal Year 2021 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program through the U.S. Federal Transit Administration. This funding will allow the NFTA to support equitable planning, engineering, technical, and financial analysis to advance a Bus Rapid Transit project along Bailey Avenue in the City of Buffalo.

Located in Western New York, the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority is the public transit provider for Erie and Niagara Counties. The NFTA provides and administers myriad transportation services across these counties, including the Metro Bus system, the Buffalo Metro Rail system, and the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. In FYE 2020, the NFTA had a total system ridership count of 24 million riders, with bus ridership accounting for 19 million.

Funding from the Federal Transit Administration would allow the NFTA to study the effects of implementing a Bus Rapid Transit project along Bailey Avenue. A potential Bailey Avenue Corridor would continue the development of Buffalo's East Side, an underserved community within the city. This project requires equitable planning, engineering, technical, and financial analysis to examine the benefits and understand the broader economic and social effects of implementing a Bus Rapid Transit system through the corridor. Through this analysis, the NFTA can move this project into and eventually through the Project Development phase of the Small Starts Process for the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program to fund this important transit project.

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, Ryan Kambich, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator