

City Council

Mayor Diana Gardner Rich
Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman
Councilmember Neysa Hinton
Councilmember Sandra Maurer
Councilmember Jill McLewis



City Manager

Don Schwartz
dschwartz@Cityofsebastopol.gov
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
mgourley@Cityofsebastopol.gov

City of Sebastopol

April 17, 2024

Kirsten Wiard-Bauer, FTA Program Manager
FTA Office of Program Management
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support for Sonoma County Transit Low-No Grant

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer:

At the April 16, 2024 City Council Meeting, the City of Sebastopol City Council voted to support the Sonoma County Transit's application for an FTA Low-No Grant that seeks funding assistance for the purchase of seven 40' battery electric buses. The total request of the grant is \$8,746,500 which includes 5% for workforce development.

The new buses will be deployed on Sonoma County Transit's intercity routes which provide links to all cities and downtown Santa Rosa where transfers to local and regional bus and rail connections can be made. Funding for these buses will allow for timely replacement of existing buses and will significantly aid in transitioning Sonoma County Transit's fleet to be fully zero-emission before 2035.

Battery-electric vehicles are more efficient and have lower operating and maintenance costs than the buses they replace. If awarded, these electric buses will enable our region to realize the significant performance, public health, and financial benefits that fleet electrification provides.

The City has established goals and policies related to reducing emissions. Electrifying our countywide bus fleet in an expeditious manner is a key component to meeting those goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Diana Gardner Rich
Mayor