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Nearly $500,000 Awarded to Island Transit for New Bus Purchase

Coupeville, WA – Island Transit will benefit from a FY2020 Federal Transportation Administration grant in the amount of $488,989.19 to purchase one new bus. The purpose of the grant is to ensure safe and reliable transit services.

“We’re delighted to receive the funds and will put the money to good use to replace one of our aging vehicles in our fleet,” says Todd Morrow, Executive Director at Island Transit, adding that grant award will cover the entire cost of one 35-foot bus which costs approximately $500,000.00.

“I’m thrilled these federal funds will help increase mobility for Island County families and commuters,” said U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “It’s so important, even while we work hard to respond to the pandemic, that important investments like these that help increase access to safe, reliable public transportation don’t get sidelined.”

Washington’s congressional delegation secured the 5339(b) grant awards for FY2020 in the amount of $4.8 million for nine rural transit agencies serving 12 counties. Island Transit is the largest of those transit agencies to receive the award.

“As someone who uses public transportation regularly, I understand the importance of safe, efficient and affordable public transit systems like Island Transit for hardworking Washingtonians,” said Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02), a co-chair of the Congressional Bus Caucus and a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “I will continue to champion robust federal investment in bus transit to help keep the economy and Washingtonians moving.”

“Our congressional leaders really came through for us by advocating for these funds,” says Morrow. “We very much appreciate their ongoing support.”

As an essential service, like fire and police, Island Transit relies on public funding which comes from local sales tax, supplemented by state and federal grants. The agency’s annual operating budget is around $14 million, supporting around 800,000 boardings in Island County during a non-pandemic year. Established in 1987, Island Transit’s 15 routes cover most of Whidbey and Camano islands.

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