



RAPID CITY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

*300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-394-4120*

June 12, 2025

Ms. Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
Office of Program Management
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Rapid City's FY25 5339(b) Small Urban Vehicle Procurement for Replacement of Two (2) Fixed-Route Buses

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer:

At its June 12, 2025 meeting, the Executive Policy Committee of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approved a motion to support the City of Rapid City's FY25 Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program grant application to replace two fixed-route buses for its Rapid Transit System.

The City of Rapid City's Rapid Transit System (RTS) has been providing local residents and visitors with a safe and reliable public transportation service for more than 30 years. As the population of Rapid City continues to expand, along with increasing tourism, more demand is placed on the existing transportation system. Just last year, RTS counted 254,305 fixed-route trips; 61,168 of those were students using the "Youth Ride Free" program.

Rapid Transit System currently has 13 buses for its six fixed routes. Six of these buses operate in peak service and throughout the day, with one used as a spare. All have met their 10-year useful life. The replacement of two buses will greatly improve the safety and reliability of RTS's fixed-route service.

The Executive Policy Committee encourages support of this application. This support is driven by the goal of continuing to provide a safe transportation system within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Area.

Sincerely,

Mayor Larry Larson, Chairperson
Executive Policy Committee