



February 1, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Lane Transit District ATTAIN Program Application

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Lane Transit District (LTD) is seeking funding through USDOT's ATTAIN Grant Program to facilitate the development of a user app and the operation of a pilot Mobility on Demand service available to high school students in the Eugene, Oregon, Bethel School District boundaries.

On a daily basis, rural and low-income members of our community find it difficult to get to school, work, child care, appointments, shopping, etc. In order to address the challenges they face, whether geographic or economic, they need reliable and affordable mobility options. The solution to this problem exists in the region's vision of a coordinated mobility network.

As the region's mobility manager, LTD is the agency that has expertise to put the disparate pieces of the puzzle together into a unified and practical strategy. LTD, working with its existing partner VIA will develop a technology solution that can provide legible mobility options across multiple providers.

The Bethel School District is the smaller of two public school districts in Eugene. The District's Kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment is 5,100 with more than 88% of its students eligible for free or reduced meals; and 41% non-white. Transportation for students to travel to school, activities and jobs has been identified as a barrier to their education and social development.

The Metropolitan Policy Committee, serving as the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board, believes funding through the USDOT's ATTAIN Grant Program to implement the user app and pilot Mobility on Demand service will provide the much-needed connection to the educational and social foundations that all youth need to build successful lives. We also look to the success of this pilot as the foundation for possible expansion to serving the entire MPO area.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask for your full support to fund this important project that will yield immediate results for youth as they become contributing adults in their community.

Sincerely,

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Metropolitan Policy Committee, Chair