

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,536,000 in funding for the Maintenance Training Bay and Classroom (DART) Project in Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, located at 620 Cherry Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. The funding would be used to construct a vehicle maintenance training bay and classroom as part of DART's new Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Facility. The training facilities will be used to train DART staff on how to maintain and repair diesel, unleaded and electric buses and support vehicles. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because after extensive analysis and thoughtful consideration, the DART Board of Commissioners determined that building a new O&M Facility is a better use of taxpayer dollars than investing in the current facility. Because of the current facility's age, condition, and location in a flood plain, FTA Region 7 office has indicated it will not invest in further improvements at the current facility. As a result, it would cost local taxpayers \$63 million dollars for DART to continue operating in the current facility over the next 20 years. Local taxpayers already fund more than 60% of DART's annual operating cost, which is why the DART Board of Commissioners is seeking federal funding to help construct a new O&M facility at a different location. With the recent historic investments through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act increasing funding for transit capital projects, DART believes it will cost local taxpayers significantly less to build a new facility than repair the existing facility.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Rep. Zach Nunn (IA-03)