



Puget Sound Regional Council

**2024 FHWA REGIONAL COMPETITION: PROJECT SPONSOR FOLLOW-UP
QUESTIONS**

AGENCY: Community Transit
PROJECT: Zero Emissions Bus Purchase

Question #1: Your application states the new buses will have advanced features for passenger safety and comfort. Please provide additional details on these features.

Answer #1: The current standard GILLIG 40' coach that we will be procuring includes items to enhance passenger safety such as high-quality anti-slip flooring, interior public address system, quality lighting, and robust seating. Coach operator safety is addressed with a specialty seat, mirrors, and security features such as a silent alarm button. In addition to the above, GILLIG is investigating various technologies for incorporation in its next build configuration of the bus, which may be included on each bus procured. Community Transit will work with GILLIG to understand what standard options are available to help combat issues that impact coach operators such as fatigue and vibration. Options under investigation include enhanced power steering, adjustable pedals, and anti-vibration seating.

Question 2: Please identify the existing disparities or gaps in the transportation system or services for the identified Equity Focus Areas that need to be addressed. Describe how the project is addressing those disparities or gaps and will provide benefits or positive impacts to these equity populations by improving their mobility.

Answer #2:

The new buses will be deployed in areas that are designated as Air Quality Focus areas by the PSCAA. These areas are predominantly located in the I-5 and SR 99 corridors between Paine Field/SR 526 (Everett) in the north and SR-524 (Lynnwood) in the south. Designated Equity Focus Areas contained within these Air Quality Focus Areas include People of Color and Low Incomes, People with Disabilities and People of Color and Youth.

Based on an assessment of the Community Transit service area in relation to its impacted Equity Focus Areas, the prominent impact that will be addressed by the acquisition of zero emissions buses will be to help mitigate the negative health impacts caused by diesel particulate and greenhouse gas emissions. The new buses will make up some of the first zero emissions bus fleet that will replace older diesel buses currently operated by Community Transit. These buses will provide an important first step in the agency goal of achieving a 100% zero emissions fleet by 2044. Over time, as its diesel bus fleet turns over, Community Transit will be making a valuable contribution in the region's goal of reducing air pollution impacts to its equity populations.

Question #3: Please identify the HOP typology associated with your project's location along with the policies that currently exist that fall under the 3 categories (Supply, Stability, and Subsidy) for this typology. Please address policies within your organization and/or within the jurisdiction in which the project is located.

Answer #3: Community Transit serves most Snohomish County areas and typologies defined in the HOP tool. Many of these areas are in the I/5 and SR 99 corridor in SW Snohomish County and emerging and rapidly growing suburbs in the Marysville and Arlington areas, Mill Creek/Snohomish and Bothell areas. Local cities and the County (unincorporated areas) will be responsible for determining the appropriate strategies to help reduce the risk of displacement that are aligned with their respective typologies. Community Transit bus service will maintain a critical role in providing improved access to these communities and jobs, thereby fostering the development of vital and stable communities throughout the County.