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For Immediate Release
**RiverCities Transit Highlights Federal Investments to
Local Congresswoman**

It wasn't quite the grand re-opening RiverCities Transit had envisioned earlier this year, prior to the global pandemic, but Monday afternoon the agency welcomed Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler to show off its new Downtown Transit Center and biodiesel buses.

The new transit center and six new biodiesel buses were possible because of \$5 million investments from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) highly competitive Bus and Bus Facilities grant program between 2016 and 2019. Congresswoman Herrera Beutler played a key role in securing the funding, having provided a critical support letter and timely personal appeals to FTA.

"We're so thankful to the Congresswoman's efforts to secure these federal investments and it wouldn't have been possible without her direct engagement," said City of Longview Mayor MaryAlice Wallis.

The new and improved Downtown Transit Center provides transit riders with a safer experience due to a reconfigured pedestrian plaza, elimination of one drive aisle, increased lighting, increased security infrastructure, and large translucent bus shelters. The addition of the six new federally-funded low-floor biodiesel busses that replace older vehicles that had exceeded their useful life cuts the maintenance cost for the transit agency while providing easier access to those with mobility challenges.

"Whether it's getting to school, work, or doctor appointments, transit is a lifeline in Longview and Kelso. It was great to visit RiverCities Transit, tour the newly refurbished and expanded Transit Center, and take a look at the new biodiesel buses that are replacing the oldest in their fleet. I'm proud to bring critical funding here for bus upgrades so folks continue to have reliable and safe transportation options," said Congresswoman Herrera Beutler.

In addition to the safety improvements and lower maintenance cost, the federal investments allow for increased economic potential. The investments facilitate service improvements that enhance employment and business opportunities by providing more travel options, system timeliness and reliability for riders to reach their destinations.

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Editor's Note: Photos attached, all taken by City of Longview Executive Assistant, Maureen Wingler

20-101 Pic 1.JPEG – photograph of Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler standing in front of the newly constructed RiverCities Transit Center.

20-101 Pic 2.JPEG – photograph of Transit Manager, Amy Asher, with Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler outside one of the new transit buses.

20-101 Pic 3.JPEG – photograph of Transit Operator, Tony Hays, with Congresswoman Jamie Herrera Beutler inside one of the new transit buses.

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