

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

September 10, 2009

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Secretary Ray LaHood
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Ray,

I write to express my full support for the application submitted by the Washington Department of Transportation on behalf of the North Spokane Corridor for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, Discretionary Grant funding. This additional funding will enable our community, region, and state to continue the progress already made. In fact, just last month, we were able to recognize the completion of the first phase. This event represented more than 50 years of planning and dedication by many in Eastern Washington. While the State has invested more than \$555 million, approximately only \$18 million has been allocated by the federal government. Thus, more can be done to make this truly an international connector as well as an effective multimodal transportation mechanism for our community, state, and nation.

As we look to the future, investment in our transportation infrastructure helps ensure successful economic growth, development, and global competitiveness. Locally, the funding request will support the on going project which is expected to expand the economy through the creation of 750 new jobs and the addition of \$140 million in revenue. Regionally, Eastern Washington remains an essential hub facilitating the movement of goods and people throughout the Pacific Northwest, connecting major trade centers such as Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, Edmonton, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco. Residents and others traveling in the region depend on the highway system to transport agriculture commodities and business goods to other areas of our country.

Once completed, the corridor will connect trade routes through Eastern Washington reducing travel time by approximately two million hours each year, which computes to about \$28 million in savings, and will reduce gasoline use by approximately 1.7 million gallons annually. As important, the corridor encourages the use of alternate transportation by providing park and ride lots, reserving space for high capacity transit, and constructing a pedestrian/bicycle trail.

On behalf of the residents of Eastern Washington, I appreciate your full consideration of the North Spokane Corridor Discretionary Grant application. Should you have any

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questions or need additional information on this project, please do not hesitate to contact Aimee Henneke in my office at 202-225-2006. The transportation investments we make in our country today will benefit generations tomorrow.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

CMC/ah