

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in strong support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) 2014 TIGER planning grant application for the "Greening Interchanges with Multi-modal Redevelopment – Seattle to Lynnwood" study.

Sound Transit, the central Puget Sound region's transit authority, is in the process of completing the Draft EIS for a light rail extension from the Northgate Station (currently in final design) in Seattle to a proposed station in the City of Lynnwood. The alignment will be adjacent to and in the Interstate 5 right-of-way. The proposed stations are located at several I-5 interchange areas. The region is committed to making the most out of a \$25 billion investment in regional transit. Communities have initiated planning efforts to redevelop areas around proposed light rail stations that will encourage the use of transit.

The I-5 corridor is an internationally-significant corridor for freight and citizen transportation purposes. In addition to its importance for freight and commerce, the corridor directly serves the greater Puget Sound area, including the downtown Seattle core, the Port of Seattle, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. This segment of I-5 carries an average of 169,000 to 189,000 vehicles per day with about 6% of that volume being truck traffic.

This TIGER VI grant application is a unique opportunity to:

- Identify multimodal options for transforming a freeway from a barrier into a people-friendly connection that promotes walking and cycling to light rail stations and other activities generated by Transit Oriented Developments.
- Plan coordinated removal of barriers to safe, efficient multimodal travel for people with special needs.
- Engage community groups and stakeholders to help identify environmental improvements and innovative stormwater management design.

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As a result of the anticipated safety, transportation, economic, and environmental benefits, this project has garnered widespread regional support. I strongly support the 2014 TIGER application for the "Greening Interchanges with Multi-modal Redevelopment – Seattle to Lynnwood" study and encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress