

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER 20.933

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write in support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for TIGER III discretionary grant funds for the Interstate 5-Joint Base Lewis-McChord Area Congestion Management Project.

If awarded this project will add capacity and redistribute demand in this heavily-congested corridor. It completes the deployment of innovative traffic management strategies, including: shoulder widening to accommodate hard shoulder running, variable lane control, ramp metering, HOV applications, congestion monitoring, expanded traveler information and local intersection and military gate improvements.

The Interstate 5-JBLM Area Congestion Management Project will make vital improvements to a heavily congested section of I-5. It will make the region more economically competitive by improving a critical freight corridor and it will improve the safety of the traveling public. We would like to thank you for your attention to their grant request and urge you to give WSDOT's grant application full and fair consideration.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



NORM DICKS
Member of Congress

JAY INSLEE
1ST DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
ENERGY AND POWER



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4701

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18560 1st Avenue, NE, Suite E-800
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4701
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Fax: (202) 226-1606

www.house.gov/inslee

October 25, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for TIGER III discretionary grant funds for the Interstate 5-Joint Base Lewis-McChord Area Congestion Management Project.

Over the last decade, the population in Thurston and Pierce counties has grown exponentially. Numerous large-scale businesses have also moved into the area, and expanding operations at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) have all contributed to increased traffic volumes on Interstate 5. This growth has affected the I-5 corridor, which is the economic lifeline for Washington State. According to WSDOT, freight represents up to 15 percent of traffic in this section of I-5 and is the backbone of connectivity to the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle, with global and local economic implications associated with increased freight delay. This section of I-5 also serves as a key commuter corridor linking two of the State's fastest growing counties, Thurston and Pierce, providing access to key employment centers.

This project will aim to add capacity, and to control and redistribute demand in this heavily congested corridor. It completes the deployment of innovative traffic management strategies, including: shoulder widening to accommodate hard shoulder running; as well as variable lane control, ramp metering, HOV applications, congestion monitoring, expanded traveler information, and local intersection and military gate improvements.

I applaud WSDOT for their focus on making our region more economically competitive by improving a critical freight corridor and improving the safety of the traveling public. I hope you will give their grant application your full and fair consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written over a printed name.

JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress

JRI/km



Pierce County

Office of the County Executive

930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 737
Tacoma, Washington 98402-2100
FAX (253) 798-6628
www.piercecountywa.org

PAT McCARTHY

Executive
(253) 798-7477
pmccart@co.pierce.wa.us

KEVIN R. PHELPS

Deputy Executive
(253) 798-7477
kphelps@co.pierce.wa.us

October 31, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As the Pierce County Executive and members of the Washington State Pierce County Legislative Delegation, we write in strong support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for TIGER III discretionary grant funds for the Interstate 5-Joint Base Lewis-McChord Area Congestion Management Project.

Over the last decade, the population in Pierce County has grown by 12.4 percent. Large-scale businesses have also moved into and expanded in the area including Toray Composites (America), IKEA, Amazon.com, REI and Carlisle Building Products. Located in Pierce County, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) is one of the largest military bases in the United States. Base activity has increased in recent years and has added an additional 11,000 active duty personnel, along with over 17,000 family members and nearly 2,000 new civilian positions since 2003. As a premier power projection platform, base activity is anticipated to grow further as JBLM acquires missions now located at bases being downsized, and also serves a growing population of veterans and other military personnel living throughout Pierce and Thurston Counties at Madigan Army Medical Center.

This growth significantly impacts the I-5 corridor, which is the economic lifeline for Washington State. Freight represents up to 15 percent of traffic in this section of I-5 and is the backbone of connectivity linking the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle with Mexico, southern California and Canada. Delay caused by congestion in the corridor has local, national and global economic implications. It is estimated that a 4-day closure of I-5 due to flooding in 2007 resulted in a loss of \$47 million in economic output, 290 jobs and \$14 million in personal income. This section of I-5 also serves as a key commuter corridor linking two of the State's fastest growing counties, Thurston and Pierce, providing access to key employment centers. In addition, I-5 plays a vital role in national security by providing freeway access to Army, Air Force and National Guard troops – the original justification for building the interstate highway system. However, this access is compromised because I-5 is congested during many hours of the day in the project area. Already operating near capacity, I-5, particularly between SR 510 and SR 512, now is routinely experiencing traffic volumes that exceed highway capacity.

This project will add capacity, and will control and redistribute demand in this heavily congested corridor. Shoulder widening that will accommodate hard shoulder running, variable lane control, ramp metering, HOV applications, congestion monitoring, expanded traveler information, and local intersection and military gate improvements are all studied techniques and are improvements that have relieved congestion in other sections of the I-5 corridor.



The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
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The Interstate 5-JBLM Area Congestion Management Project will make vital improvements that will make the region more economically competitive by improving a critical freight corridor and improving the safety of the traveling public. We strongly support this project and urge you to approve WSDOT's grant application.

Sincerely,



Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive



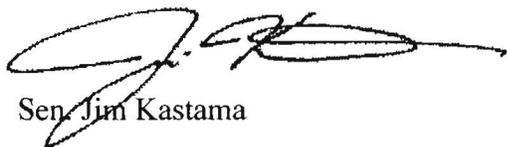
Rep. Larry Seaquist



Sen. Debbie Regala



Sen. Pam Roach



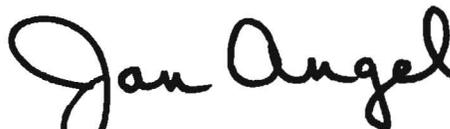
Sen. Jim Kastama



Rep. Troy Kelley



Rep. Laurie Jinkins



Rep. Jan Angel



Rep. Connie Ladenburg



Rep. Bruce Dammeier

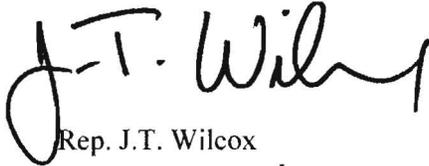


Sen. Mike Carrell

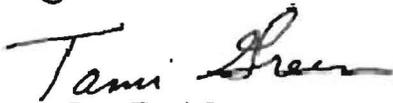


Sen. Derek Kilmer

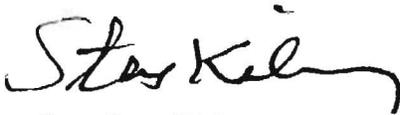
The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
October 31, 2011
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Rep. J.T. Wilcox



Rep. Tami Green



Rep. Steve Kirby



Sen. Steve Conway



Sen. Randi Becker



Rep. Hans Zeiger



Washington State Legislature

October 27, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write in strong support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for TIGER III discretionary grant funds for the Interstate 5-Joint Base Lewis-McChord Area Congestion Management Project.

Over the last decade, the population in Thurston and Pierce counties has grown exponentially. Numerous large-scale businesses have also moved into the area, and expanding operations at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) have all contributed to increased traffic volumes on Interstate 5. JBLM is one of the largest military bases on the west coast, and an additional 8,200 active duty personnel and nearly 2,000 new civilian positions have increased the population of JBLM since 2003. Base activity is anticipated to grow further as JBLM also serves veterans and other military personnel living throughout Thurston and Pierce Counties at Madigan Army Medical Center.

This growth has affected the I-5 corridor, which is the economic lifeline for Washington State. Freight represents up to 15 percent of traffic in this section of I-5 and is the backbone of connectivity to the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle, with global and local economic implications associated with increased freight delay. This section of I-5 serves as a key commuter corridor linking two of the State's fastest growing counties, Thurston and Pierce, providing access to key employment centers. I-5 also plays a role in national security by providing access to JBLM and Camp Murray, home to the Washington National Guard. However, this access is compromised because I-5 is congested during many hours of the day in the project area. Already operating near capacity, I-5, particularly between SR 510 and SR 512, now is routinely experiencing traffic volumes that exceed highway capacity.

This project will add capacity, and will control and redistribute demand in this heavily congested corridor. It completes the deployment of innovative traffic management

strategies, including: shoulder widening to accommodate hard shoulder running; as well as variable lane control, ramp metering, HOV applications, congestion monitoring, expanded traveler information, and local intersection and military gate improvements.

The Interstate 5-JBLM Area Congestion Management Project will make vital improvements to a heavily congested section of I-5. It will make the region more economically competitive by improving a critical freight corridor and it will improve the safety of the traveling public. We strongly support this project and urge you to give WSDOT's grant application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,


Mary Margaret Haugen
State Senator, 10th District
Senate Transportation Chairman


Curtis King
State Senator, 14th District
Senate Transportation Ranking Member


Judy Clibborn
State Representative, 41st District
House Transportation Chairman


Mike Armstrong
State Representative, 12th District
House Transportation Ranking Member



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JOINT BASE GARRISON
BOX 339500, MAIL STOP 1AA
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WA 98433-9500

OCT 21 2011

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Office of the Joint Base Garrison Commander

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my strong support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application for TIGER III discretionary grant funds for the Interstate 5 Joint Base Lewis-McChord Area Congestion Management Project.

Over the last decade, the population in Thurston and Pierce Counties has grown exponentially. Numerous large-scale businesses have also moved into the area, and expanding operations at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) have all contributed to increased traffic volumes on Interstate 5. JBLM is the largest military base on the west coast, and the addition of over 8,200 active duty personnel and nearly 2,000 new civilian positions have increased the population of JBLM since 2003. Base activity is anticipated to continue to grow, as JBLM also serves veterans and other military personnel living throughout Thurston and Pierce Counties at Madigan Army Medical Center.

This growth has affected the I-5 corridor, which as you know is an economic lifeline for Washington State. Freight represents up to 15 percent of traffic in this section of I-5 and is the backbone of connectivity to the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle, with global and local economic implications associated with increased freight delay. This section of I-5 also serves as a key commuter corridor linking two of the State's fastest growing counties, Thurston and Pierce, providing access to critical employment centers. I-5 also plays a role in national security by providing access to JBLM and Camp Murray - home to the Washington National Guard; however, this access is compromised because I-5 is congested during many hours of the day in the project area. Already operating near capacity, I-5, particularly between SR 510 and SR 512, is now routinely experiencing traffic volumes that exceed highway capacity.

This project will add capacity, and will control and redistribute demand in this heavily-congested corridor. It completes the deployment of innovative traffic management strategies, including: shoulder widening to accommodate hard shoulder running, variable lane control, ramp metering, HOV applications, congestion monitoring, expanded traveler information, and local intersection and military gate improvements.

The Interstate 5 JBLM Area Congestion Management Project will make vital improvements to a heavily congested section of I-5. I believe it will also help make the region more economically competitive by improving a critical freight corridor, and it will improve the safety of the traveling public. I strongly support this project and urge you to give WSDOT's grant application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. H. Brittain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas H. Brittain
Colonel, US Army
Commanding



MEMBERS:

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Thurston PUD
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- TCOMM9-1-1
- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library

October 27, 2011

Mr. Ron Landon, Olympic Region Program Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation
PO Box 47440
Olympia, WA 98504-7440

Dear Mr. Landon:

RE: TIGER III Grant Proposal for Interstate 5 – JBLM Area Congestion Management Project

The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) extends its endorsement for this important operations project. Addressing the freeway bottleneck between Lacey and Lakewood is a priority issue for our region and for the state economy. TRPC continues to work collaboratively with our federal, state, regional and local partners to find short- and long-term solutions to keep traffic flowing smoothly through this area.

TRPC is actively participating in the South Sound Military and Communities Partnership, the City of Lakewood I-5 Study, and now taking the lead in a multi-jurisdictional I-5 JBLM Congestion Relief Action Plan. WSDOT's TIGER III grant proposal is a important addition to this approach – taking meaningful and coordinated steps right now to wring the highest efficiency possible from the existing freeway and arterial system adjacent to JBLM.

This grant proposal fits TRPC's regional priorities:

- It is consistent with TRPC's long range Regional Transportation Plan.
- TRPC is amending this project into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) so it may move forward quickly into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and work can begin immediately when the grant is awarded.
- TRPC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes work specifically on addressing the JBLM area issues. This project is consistent with the Council's work program priorities.

We've built a strong team with collaborators that are ready to make the most of the roadway system we have to keep commuters and freight moving, while improving access to JBLM in a way that preserves base security.

This project is a win - win for all the partners and our traveling public. It will make a real and substantial difference now and for the next few years as the Puget Sound economy grows and JBLM forces expand.

Sincerely,

Lon D. Wyrick
Executive Director

72 ss



Lon D. Wyrick
Executive Director

2424 Heritage Court SW
Suite A
Olympia, WA 98502-6031
360-956-7575
360-956-7815 Fax
www.trpc.org



SOUTH SOUND MILITARY & COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

October 21, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please accept this letter as evidence of our support for the TIGER III Grant application being submitted by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the "Interstate 5-JBLM Area Congestion Management Project"

As the lifeline for the State of Washington, the Interstate 5 corridor is a crucial component of our region's economy. With more than 15,000 trucks and 140,000 vehicles per day, I-5 serves as a key commuter corridor for two of the State's fastest growing counties, Thurston and Pierce. In addition, I-5 plays a vital role in national security by serving as the primary access to and from Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Camp Murray, the state's Emergency Operations Center. However, due to I-5 congestion that now spans many hours of the day in this area, this access is compromised. Already operating near capacity, I-5, particularly between SR 510 and SR 512, routinely experiences traffic volumes that exceed highway capacity.

Clearly, congestion, traveler safety and freight mobility are multi-jurisdictional concerns. The South Sound Military & Communities Partnership, comprised of a diverse array of business, military, community and government leaders believe that a solution is desperately needed to ensure our economic sustainability and high quality of life.

The Interstate 5-JBLM Area Congestion Management Project will make vital improvements that will make the region more economically competitive by improving a critical freight corridor and improving the safety of the traveling public. On behalf of the SSMCP Steering Committee, representing over 23 communities in the south Puget Sound area, we are proud to support the military and the needed infrastructure to ensure safe and successful movement of commerce, traffic and citizens.

Sincerely,

City of DuPont

City of Lacey

Clover Park School District

City of Lakewood

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce

United Way of Pierce County