SOUNDTRANSIT

April 17, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing you to state my strong support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) 2014 TIGER grant application for the "Greening Interchanges with Multimodal Redevelopment – Seattle to Lynnwood" study.

I-5 is the major north-south route through the state and serves a large commuter market traveling between Snohomish and King Counties, and is an internationally significant corridor for freight movement. In addition to its international importance for freight and commerce, the corridor directly serves the greater Puget Sound area, including the Boeing Company, the US Navy base in Everett, 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.

Sound Transit is in the process of completing the environmental review phase for the Lynnwood Link light rail extension from the Northgate Station (currently in final design) in Seattle/King County to a proposed station in the city of Lynnwood/Snohomish County. The 8.5 mile long project corridor generally follows Interstate-5 (I-5). Three of the four proposed stations along the alignment are located at I-5 interchange areas. All four proposed stations will have an effect on how I-5 and its interchanges function.

Sound Transit supports this project because it will identify opportunities to create multimodal connections along this section of the I-5 corridor that make it easier for seniors, people with disabilities, pedestrians, and bicyclists to safely and efficiently access light rail stations and activities generated by Transit Oriented Developments. We believe these improvements will support increased transit ridership and help reduce vehicle emissions while providing residents more access to jobs, services, and activities, locally and regionally.

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 Multimodal Redevelopment – Seattle to Lynnwood" study and encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Harbour
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

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