

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
April 14, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I support the application submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation FASTLANE Grant Program by the City of Tukwila to complete the Strander Boulevard Multi-Modal Connector Project. Now in the third and final phase, this project significantly improves the movement of goods along one of the highest capacity freight routes in the state and creates a multi-modal transit hub in one of Washington's fast-growing regions.

The Strander Boulevard Multi-Modal Connector Project resolves a missing route serving the northern portion of the Green River Valley – the second largest warehousing and manufacturing center on the West Coast and the fifth largest in the nation. Currently, regional truck freight traveling to the Green River Valley must drive out of direction, increasing congestion on Interstate-405 and SR 167.

An east-west connection in Tukwila would streamline the movement of four to ten million tons of freight annually. Elimination of an at-grade crossing and development of 1,250 linear feet of arterial in the City would increase freight rail capacity, ease congestion, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By 2030, approximately 51,000 vehicles a year would be rerouted from nearby freeways as a result of this new roadway.

Further, Tukwila's project creates better access to commuter rail, Amtrak Cascade Intercity Rail, and King County Metro Rapid Ride bus services at Sound Transit's Tukwila Station. Direct ramps from the new roadway would facilitate convenient travel between transit hubs and surrounding businesses and residences. This access is critical to increase usability of high capacity transit facilities, integrate regional rail and bus services, and connect the major employment centers of Renton, Kent and Tukwila.

The Puget Sound region must prepare for 1.5 million new residents and 1.2 million jobs before 2040. The Strander Boulevard Multi-Modal Connector Project is essential to maintaining quality of life and mobility of freight in the face of rapid growth. I am glad to voice support for the City of Tukwila's application, and I urge its full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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