

MARIA CANTWELL

WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C., 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the City of Seattle's application to the 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program. The City of Seattle is seeking \$2,000,000 for additional planning and studies for its I-5 lidding proposal.

I-5 is a major freeway which connects the entire West Coast. It is a vital transportation link for the nation and Washington state. However, I-5 runs through downtown Seattle and effectively splits the city. While I-5 is critically important to the state and the city, it has split areas of low income from downtown and has greatly reduced the amount of greenspace in the city. To remedy this, the City of Seattle is researching the feasibility of lidding portions of I-5 in Seattle.

If the city is successful in this grant application, it will use this funding to build upon a 2020 preliminary study of the technical and economical feasibility of the project. This addition to the earlier study will include additional analysis and establishment of impacted communities' priorities for design development. The proposed lid would catalyze the reconnection of Seattle's core neighborhoods with surrounding communities. There will be a focus on connecting affordable housing to public transportation, and building safe streets that focus on walking, biking, and transit. Further, new green space will be built on the lid, improving health in nearby local low-income housing by reducing emissions and noise pollution. The proposed lid will include a seismically sound transportation facility built to reliant standards and incorporate necessary climate change adaptations such as stormwater capture and urban heat island mitigation. Finally, this project will provide quality jobs constructing the new lid.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Seattle's application to the 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator