

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

May 24, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Tukwila to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)* program for the Strander Boulevard Multi-Modal Connector project.

The City of Tukwila is seeking a FASTLANE grant to extend Strander Boulevard under major railroad lines thereby connecting the cities of Tukwila and Renton to the Sound Transit Tukwila Commuter Rail Station through a four-lane, grade-separated roadway. It would provide a new east-west connection for traffic across the Green River Valley and a grade separated crossing under the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Strander Boulevard is currently closed at the Union Pacific tracks for safety purposes. This is the final phase of a three phased project to improve freight mobility, better connect commuters with regional employment centers, and reduce traffic congestion.

Tukwila, Washington is home to a daytime population of more than 150,000 people, the largest mall in the Pacific Northwest, and the northern portion of the Green River Valley which is the second largest warehouse district on the West Coast and the fifth largest in the nation. The project would improve travel time to freight hubs such as the Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma and take 55,000 vehicles off Interstate-405. It would also support the expected growth in the area surrounding this project, with regional employers such as Boeing and Group Health Cooperative planning to hire more than 10,000 employees over the next ten years.

The Strander Boulevard Multi-Modal Connector project would ease existing freight congestion and increase safe access to major employment centers in the region. By incorporating dedicated pedestrian and bicycle lanes into the project it would improve access for all modes of travel.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Tukwila's application. Please contact Shavenor Winters in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

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