

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 Seattle 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 South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railroad Safety Project.

The City of Seattle is seeking a FASTLANE grant to construct a grade separated crossing over existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks on South Lander Street between 1st and 4th avenues. This project would remove an at grade crossing which today significantly impedes the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.

South Lander Street provides a direct link to the Port of Seattle and freight operational support centers. Seven marine terminal and rail yard gates that serve the Port of Seattle are located within one mile of South Lander Street. South Lander Street is also an access point for the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing/Industrial Center which is the largest manufacturing industrial center in the Pacific Northwest. All together this industrial area is critical to the local and national economy, supporting 75,000 jobs and is projected to grow by another 25,000 jobs by 2040. Today, over 100 daily train crossings at South Lander Street create a bottleneck for manufacturing, freight, and residential movement. As a result, freight and general purpose vehicles experience an average of 4.5 hours per day in traffic delays and approximately 500 track violations occur each day.

The South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railroad Safety Project would ensure more reliable and consistent access to the Port of Seattle, improve freight and passenger rail operations, and reduce delays and congestion created by high volumes of truck traffic seeking to enter or exit this industrial hub. It would improve connections to Interstate-5 and Interstate-90, two key national freight corridors for imports and exports. Additionally, the project would increase safety and access for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and emergency responders.

The importance of this project is underscored by its inclusion in the Washington State Department of Transportation Freight Mobility Plan, the Port of Seattle/City of Seattle Industrial Areas Freight Access Program, and City of Seattle Freight Master Plan. The FASTLANE grant would complement local and state investments in this project through the Move Seattle transportation levy and Connecting Washington transportation revenue package.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patty Murray
United States Senator