

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by Spokane County for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants* program for the Geiger Boulevard Infrastructure Improvements project.

Spokane County is seeking a BUILD grant to make improvements to Geiger Boulevard and connecting facilities. The project would upgrade Geiger Boulevard from a two-lane bituminous road to a three-lane asphalt road, signalize the Hayford Road intersection, improve two high traffic interchanges at Medical Lake Road and Grove Road, install water and sewer utilities to prepare open land for development, and add bicycle and pedestrian pathways to facilitate connections to regional transit including the new West Plains Transit Center.

Geiger Boulevard is located west of the City of Spokane, is adjacent to Spokane International Airport, and runs along I-90. This area includes more than 400 acres of available land primed for continued industrial, commercial, and residential development to support the regions expected growth. The new development could support more than 3,200 new jobs and over 1,300 new residents. Spokane County, the City of Spokane, Spokane International Airport, Spokane Transit Authority, and the Washington State Department of Transportation recognize the significance of this project and already secured over 63 percent of the project funding through local, state, and private sources. The Geiger Boulevard Infrastructure Improvements project would improve freight and vehicle travel times, increase safety, and spur continued economic development in the greater Spokane region.

Thank you for your consideration of Spokane County's application. Please contact Samara Ressler in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator