

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

May 29, 2015

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 Tacoma to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants* program to expand the Tacoma Link light rail in downtown Tacoma, Washington.

The City of Tacoma is seeking a \$15,000,000 TIGER grant to expand downtown Tacoma's existing 1.6 mile streetcar system an additional 2.4 miles, for a total system length of 4 miles. The project would include six additional stations with service planned for 17 hours per day. The expansion would connect downtown Tacoma and the densely-populated Stadium and Hilltop Districts, greatly benefiting the residents of these ethnically and economically diverse HUD Community Empowerment Zones where 25 percent of residents are low-income and 30 percent of households have no vehicle. The expansion would also provide access to a forecasted 54,000 jobs at four major hospitals and medical centers, and would service nearly 17,000 students at five educational facilities. Transit trips are projected to increase from 1 million to 3.5 million annually, for a daily ridership increase of nearly 85 percent.

The project would also serve as a catalyst for transit-oriented economic development. The City of Tacoma has identified 12 economic development opportunities within a five minute walk of the expansion corridor, with an estimated economic development value of \$320 million. In addition, the Tacoma Link is strategically placed to take advantage of connections to existing major bus lines and regional destinations through transit. The expansion is projected to cost \$166,000,000, with the additional funding provided by the City of Tacoma and Sound Transit, as well as a \$75,000,000 Small Starts grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

The project was approved by voters in 2008 and enjoys support from the City Council of Tacoma, Pierce County, Tacoma Public Schools, Group Health, University of Washington-Tacoma, Evergreen State College, Tacoma Housing Authority, and others. It will connect riders to jobs and education opportunities, while spurring community revitalization and reinvestment in the Hilltop District.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Tacoma's application. Please contact Josephine Eckert 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