

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

June 15, 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 Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants* program for the Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal Relocation Project.

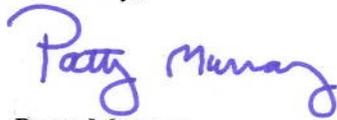
The WSDOT Ferries Division is seeking a \$20,000,000 TIGER grant to construct a new ferry terminal in Mukilteo, Washington. The current 60-year-old structure is seismically vulnerable, plagued by traffic congestion and safety concerns, and has not seen significant repairs since the early 1980s. The existing ferry terminal and tank farm pier would be removed, eliminating thousands of tons of toxic debris from Puget Sound. The new terminal would include a passenger and maintenance building, a supervisor's building, four new vehicle toll booths, safer ferry access for pedestrians, dedicated loading for bicycles and carpools, a bus transit center, and improved connections to an adjacent commuter rail station. It would separate the terminal from public streets thereby easing congestion and restoring local access to the waterfront.

As the largest ferry system in the country, the WSDOT Ferries Division is a core component of the Puget Sound region's transportation network. The Mukilteo-Clinton ferry route, connecting Whidbey Island to employment centers in the Seattle and Everett metropolitan area, is the busiest route for vehicle traffic and has the second highest annual ridership. It serves 3,900,000 riders and 2.1 million vehicles, while handling over 4,000,000 tons of freight per year. With walk-on ridership expected to increase by 124 percent by 2040, this project is critical for ensuring that the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry route can adequately support a growing Washington state economy.

The WSDOT Ferries Division and Federal Transit Administration have concluded the environmental review process for the project, with the first phase of construction – removal of the tank farm pier – set to begin in August 2015. This project enjoys support from tribal nations, transit agencies, local governments, Puget Sound Regional Council, and Economic Alliance of Snohomish County as well as the United States Air Force, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. A new multimodal ferry terminal would support economic development by more reliably, safely, and efficiently transporting millions of Washington residents along the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry route.

Thank you for your consideration of WSDOT'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, flowing style.

Patty Murray  
United States Senator