

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
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July 5, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of an application submitted by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant* program for the Salmon Bay Rail Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

Since the early 1900s, the BNSF Salmon Bay Rail Bridge has provided access for freight and passenger trains to cross the Lake Washington Ship Canal in Seattle. On average, 30 to 40 trains cross the bridge per day, including Sounder commuter and Amtrak passenger trains as well as freight trains to and from the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma. The bridge is part of a functional and efficient multimodal transportation system that benefits the region by moving people, goods, and boats directly to their final destinations; minimizing vehicle miles traveled and reducing pollutants and emissions. To accommodate maritime access BNSF is required to open the bridge, and these frequent openings have placed stress on the trunnion bearings and the bridge's counterweight. BNSF is proposing this project to extend the bridge's reliable service life.

This project consists of replacing the lift span counterweight and trunnion bearing mechanism components to ensure the bridge's reliable operation. Once complete, this project would extend the life of the bridge's moveable span by 50 years, thereby matching the useful life of the remaining bridge components. Overall, this project will preserve both the public and private benefits generated by the movement of multimodal freight both over the railroad and on the waterway in addition to rail passenger mobility over the bridge.

Thank you for your consideration of the Washington State Department of Transportation's application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle, WA office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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