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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4710

April 11, 2016

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The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Fife, Washington FASTLANE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write to express my support for the City of Fife's Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant application for the Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvement Project.

This project will provide road, intersection, and interchange improvements of significant value to the Port of Tacoma, the surrounding industrial area, and businesses in both Tacoma and Fife. The project is a multi-phased plan to improve the Port of Tacoma Road/Interstate 5 interchange, Pacific Highway East, and the Port of Tacoma Road.

The interchange serves as a primary truck route between Interstate 5 and the Port and is a critical regional and national cargo gateway. The Puget Sound is the third largest gateway in North America for containerized cargo. Seventy percent of international container cargo passing through the Port of Tacoma is bound for locations in the Midwest and East Coast.

Design, value engineering, and traffic modeling studies have confirmed the need for the improvements and identified an alternative configuration for the interchange and the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road ramps. The interchange reconstruction will improve the level of service for trucks traveling to and from the Port, and the decreased truck-idle times will reduce emissions in a region of Washington State currently out of compliance with Federal air quality standards. Because it believes these improvements are so vital, the Port of Tacoma is contributing \$1.5 million towards the project.

Given the Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvement Project's importance on a regional and national scale, I ask for full and fair consideration of the City of Fife's FASTLANE grant application.

Sincerely,



Denny Heck
Member of Congress