Pierce County

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April 8, 2016

Mr. Subir Mukerjee, City Manager
City of Fife
5411 23rd Street E.
Fife, WA 98424

Dear Mr. Mukerjee:

Pierce County strongly supports 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 great 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 American 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 would reduce air emissions in a region of Washington State currently out of compliance with Federal air quality standards. Because 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 fully support the City of Fife's efforts to secure a FASTLANE grant for the project.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy

Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive