



Pierce County

Office of the County Executive

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April 27, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Pierce County strongly supports the City of Fife's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant application for the Port of Tacoma Interchange Improvement Project.

This project will provide much needed road, intersection, and interchange improvements to the Port of Tacoma, the surrounding industrial area, and businesses in the Cities of Fife and Tacoma.

The Interchange serves as the primary truck route connecting Joint Base Lewis McChord—the largest power projection platform west of the Rocky Mountains—and the Port of Tacoma, a US Department of Defense-designated strategic port. 70 percent of international container cargo passing through the Port of Tacoma is bound for locations in the American Midwest and East Coast.

The Interchange supports two roadways both of which are T-1 freight corridors, located on the USDOT Highway Multi-modal Freight Network (MFN), serving a USDOT MFN- designated port (the second largest gateway for containerized cargo on the West Coast and the fourth largest in North America).

Currently, the Interchange serves 4 international container terminals and 1 international auto terminal that handle approx. 1.7 million twenty-foot equivalent units of containerized cargo and over 185,000 automobile imports; these facilities generate \$1.86 billion in business revenue and supports over 7,000 direct jobs.

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. This 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.

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 TIGER grant for the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy".

Pat McCarthy
Pierce County Executive