

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of an application submitted by the City of Fife for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants* program for the Port of Tacoma Road Interchange Phase 2.

The City of Fife is seeking a BUILD grant for Phase 2 of the Port of Tacoma Road-Interstate 5 project. The full project would replace the I-5 and Port of Tacoma Road interchange with a one-way couplet and would convert traffic patterns on the bridge over I-5 to a one-way northbound and southbound. The City of Fife has already successfully funded and constructed Phase 1 of the project, the intersection on the southbound side of the interstate; if awarded, this funding will allow the City of Fife to complete construction on the northbound side. Once complete this important project will shorten queue lengths on and off I-5 from thousands of feet to hundreds, thereby substantially reducing idling times.

The Port of Tacoma, along with the Port of Seattle, is one half of the Northwest Seaport Alliance, the nation's fourth largest marine cargo port. The Port of Tacoma Road and I-5 interchange directly serve four of the Port's terminals, which handled 67 percent of the Port's traffic in 2018. The Port of Tacoma accounts for \$637 million in annual wages and indirectly supports more than 43,000 jobs within Pierce County. If growth in the Puget Sound region continues as projected, I-5 and the Port of Tacoma interchange will be under significant gridlock by 2040 without improvements. This project would help mitigate congestion along a highly traveled corridor, significantly reducing wait times for freight, commuters and local residents alike.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Fife's application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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