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December 15, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express my support for the Lummi Nation's application for the Fiscal Year 2017 Significant Freight and Highway Projects (FASTLANE) Grant for their Interstate-5/Slater Road Interchange Improvement Project.

The Slater Road corridor facilitates access between the Lummi Reservation, the cities of Bellingham and Ferndale, and Interstate-5 (I-5) for both freight and passenger traffic. The volume of traffic through the already-strained corridor is forecasted to swell alongside significant regional economic growth, and the Lummi Nation seeks improvements to the main Slater Road interchange before the increased traffic flow renders the corridor essentially inoperative. Absent these critical improvements, the Slater Road/I-5 Interchange is expected to fall to a Level-of-Service (LOS) rating of "F" by the year 2038.

The Lummi Nation's proposed Interchange Improvement aims to provide improved long-term operability and passenger safety by increasing efficiency and clearing congestion along the corridor and arterial routes. The project includes introduction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, installation of a new roundabout, and bridge widening on the interchange, bringing it into compliance with current Washington State Department of Transportation standards.

Without the safe and efficient flow of traffic through this core, the Lummi Nation – and by extension, the surrounding community – will not be able to fulfill their economic growth potential. I encourage your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of their application.

Sincerely,



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress