

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

December 14, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I support the Lummi Nation's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FASTLANE Grant Program for the Interstate-5/Slater Road Interchange improvements project. In the face of steadily increasing regional density, improvements are essential to maintain safe and acceptable levels of freight and passenger vehicle mobility on both local and state transportation networks.

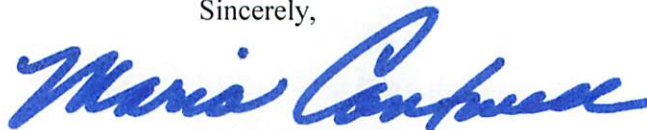
The Slater Road corridor is bounded by the Lummi Reservation, the cities of Ferndale and Bellingham, and Interstate-5 (I-5): part of the National Highway Freight Network. The corridor is heavily used by freight and passenger traffic and is projected to experience significant economic growth with the development of 464 acres of adjacent retail, manufacturing, and industrial properties.

The existing Interstate-5/Slater Road Interchange is deficient to handle the projected increase in congestion resulting from expected economic development, significantly impairing the mobility of freight trucks accessing regional intermodal facilities and the public traveling along corridor. As a result, the Slater Road/I-5 Interchange, and adjacent intersections to the east and west of on and off ramps, will be degraded to level-of-service (LOS) "F" rating by the year 2038.

The I-5/Slater Road Interchange project would alleviate congestion and improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people along I-5 while providing long term improved mobility and safety within the Slater Road corridor. Bridge deck widening would update the interchange to meet current Washington State Department of Transportation standards, provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and install a new roundabout to ease arterial congestion.

I ask for full and fair consideration of the Lummi Nation's application to the FASTLANE Grant Program to ensure the region can meet their future freight and transportation demands, ensuring economic growth opportunities through fast and efficient movement of locally produced goods to domestic and international markets.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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