

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the Lummi Nation to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)* grant for the Slater Road/I-5 Interchange Improvement project.

The Lummi Nation is seeking a FASTLANE grant to make improvements to the Slater Road/I-5 Interchange and adjacent roads. This project would widen the Slater Road interchange bridge deck over Interstate-5 (I-5), which would bring the interchange into compliance with current Washington State Department of Transportation standards. A 10 foot bicycle and pedestrian structure would be constructed alongside the modified bridge deck and the I-5 north and southbound ramps would be widened to two or three lanes. The project also includes a new two lane roundabout at the intersection of Rural Avenue and Slater Road, a new roundabout at Rural Avenue and Wynn Road, and two new short road connections from Rural Avenue to Kope Road. Finally, it would upgrade the existing Pacific Highway roundabout and two additional existing single lane roundabouts.

Growth in Whatcom County and increases in freight movement to and from the cities of Bellingham and Ferndale have created significant congestion. The Slater Road/I-5 Interchange Improvement project would mitigate current and future traffic increases, decrease delays, and provide alternative travel options. It would increase safety and reliability for pedestrians, freight, and through traffic while improving access to the Lummi Indian Reservation and surrounding communities. The Whatcom Council of Governments has designated this project as a regional transportation priority and Washington state has provided funding through the Connecting Washington transportation revenue package.

Thank you for your consideration of the Lummi Nation's application. Please contact Shavenor Winters in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator