



April 13, 2016

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

RE: City of Seattle FAST Grant Application for the South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railway Safety Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The City of Seattle is proud to present the South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railway Safety Project for consideration for a FASTLANE grant award.

South Lander Street has been a long-standing priority freight project in the City of Seattle. It was first recognized in the 1998 Seattle Fast Action Strategy report, which identified major traffic and congestion chokepoints around the city. While there are multiple rail crossings in this corridor, South Lander Street was identified as the most viable location for a grade crossing because of its wide right of way, distance between rail and adjacent streets, and multimodal connections.

Through close collaboration with the Port of Seattle, South Lander Street was also identified as a priority freight project in the Washington State Freight Mobility Plan (2014) due to its importance as a state truck freight economic corridor and as a first- and last-mile connector.

Most recently, South Lander Street was again identified as a high priority project in the Move Seattle Plan, which is a ten-year vision for increasing safety, reducing congestion, and balancing modal needs in the City of Seattle. It was then included as a priority project in the 2015 Transportation Levy to Move Seattle Forward, securing \$20 million in dedicated levy funding by the voters of Seattle. The South Lander Street Project moved to a high priority project not only because of the safety and congestion improvements that it entails, its importance to maintaining access to Downtown from West Seattle and South Park, and its multimodal nature, but also because of its significant impact on the region and the country overall. More than half of the BNSF railcars that move through Washington State, a critical trade corridor for the country, go through this Lander Street intersection with international implications as the line serves as a primary freight connection point with British Columbia.

South Lander Street is in a robust industrial area south of downtown Seattle. Unlike many freight projects, this overpass project will also benefit pedestrians and cyclists getting to and from work centers. This project borders two major headquarters: Starbucks Corporation and the

Seattle Public School District. In addition, this project sits firmly within the Duwamish Manufacturing and Industrial Center, the state's largest concentration of industrial and maritime jobs.

Currently, South Lander Street is closed for an average of 4.5 hours daily due to train traffic, impacting the mobility of tens of thousands of people, hindering access to Downtown from West Seattle and South Park, and severely impacting freight access to port and manufacturing facilities critical to the local and national economy. The City has also observed that there are nearly 500 pedestrian and vehicle crossing violations that occur at this intersection each day.

In order to best address the congestion and the safety concerns, the City of Seattle is proposing to construct a new 5-span concrete bridge structure within the South Lander Street right-of-way between 1st and 4th Avenues South. This will separate vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic from railroad traffic on both the BNSF Railway mainline and a spur track that serves the Allied Waste facility.

The City of Seattle is prepared to prioritize the funding for this project. A FASTLANE grant will provide the critical last dollar in to ensure we can construct the grade separation, overcoming this critical chokepoint in our freight network to better serve the international trade on which this part of the country is so economically dependent.

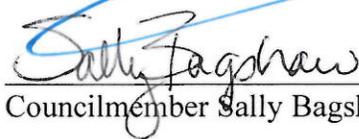
Further, we are proud to be standing with the support of many other important regional partners in wanting to see this transportation need realized, including: the State of Washington, the Northwest Seaport Alliance, the South Downtown Business Alliance (including Starbucks and approximately seventy other businesses), the Manufacturing and Industrial Council, the Great Northern Corridor Coalition, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Puget Sound Regional Council, King County, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Sound Transit, Washington Maritime Association, the Cascade Bike Club, Feet First, Amtrak, and many others.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this critical transportation project. We urge your consideration and support for the City of Seattle's South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railway Safety Project for a FASTLANE award.

Sincerely,



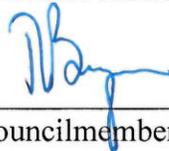
Mayor Edward B. Murray



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Council President Bruce Harrell



Councilmember Tim Burgess



Councilmember M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



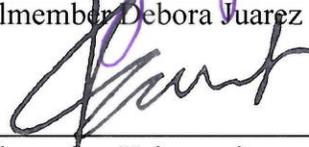
Councilmember Rob Johnson



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Kshama Sawant

