



CITY OF SEATTLE

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Seattle East Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project BUILD grant application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The City of Seattle is proud to present the East Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project for consideration for a BUILD grant award.

East Marginal Way is one of the City's most important transportation corridors underlying the city and the region's economic health and resilience. It runs the length of the SODO Qualified Opportunity Zone and a key center for growing the region's industrial job base, connecting seven Port of Seattle terminals and hundreds of manufacturing, warehousing and commercial businesses to freight rail yards and the national highway system, including Interstate 5 and the terminus of I-90. With the level of significant freight volume and other daily usage on East Marginal, this roadway is in critical need of investment to allow continued accommodation of freight activity and to support safe travel by all users.

East Marginal Way serves as a critical last-mile connector and vital route for oversized trucks and those carrying flammable cargo and, at the same time, it is an important corridor for many of the people who work or need to access goods in manufacturing and maritime center by car, bike or on foot. The City of Seattle has developed this project to address the full range of these uses, specifically designing it to meet state Heavy Haul freight standards while also incorporating critical safety features for commuters regardless of mode.

The East Marginal Way Corridor Improvement Project was identified as a priority by Seattle voters when they approved the 2015 Transportation Levy to Move Seattle. Through this property tax measure, Seattle residents are setting aside \$7.1 million for the project. They have committed nearly \$1 million more in utility payments to cover associated drainage costs, while the Port of Seattle is contributing more than \$5 million to ensure the reconstructed roadway is built to the highest freight standards. Contributions from state and regional entities, including the state's Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, bring another \$6 million to the project. These commitments reflect the importance of this project to our economy, to family wage job creation and to improved safety in the corridor.

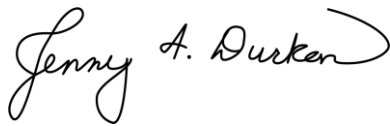
East Marginal Way traverses the Duwamish Manufacturing and Industrial Center, the state's largest concentration of industrial and maritime jobs. East Marginal Way is also the only option for nearly 1000 bicyclists traveling on an average weekday to downtown and other major employment sites from West Seattle residential neighborhoods. For years, both truck drivers and bicyclists have sought to redesign the roadway to safely separate the two modes. In addition to Port and other marine facilities, the route also provides access to major employment sites such as the Starbucks corporate headquarters, the US Coast Guard's base for Puget Sound operations, and hundreds of manufacturing and craft makers, not to mention NFL and MLB stadiums that regularly attract fans from Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon, as well as Washington state.

The City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle and the state have prioritized funding for this project. A BUILD grant will provide the critical last dollar in to ensure we can reconstruct East Marginal Way to sustain and create new family wage jobs.

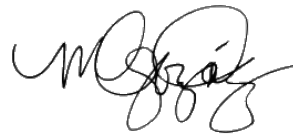
We are proud to be standing with the support of many other important regional partners in wanting to see this transportation need realized, including: the State of Washington, the Northwest Seaport Alliance, the South Downtown Business Alliance (including Starbucks and approximately seventy other businesses), the Manufacturing and Industrial Council, Puget Sound Regional Council, King County, Cascade Bike Club and many, many others.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this critical transportation project. We urge your support for the City of Seattle's East Marginal Way Corridor Project for a BUILD award.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jenny A. Durkan



Council President M. Lorena González



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Debora Juarez



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss

CC:

Senator Patty Murray

Senator Maria Cantwell

Governor Jay Inslee

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal

Congressman Adam Smith