



Washington State Legislature

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20509

Re: Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As state legislators representing Washington State's 46th Legislative District, we are pleased to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the construction of a pedestrian-bicycle bridge over Interstate 5 (I-5), related non-motorized access to the future Northgate Light Rail Station, and to expansion of Seattle's bike share network to Northgate and other neighborhoods.

Seattle's Northgate Urban Center (in our district) is designated as a regional growth center in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040 Plan. However I-5 hinders the growth and development of this area as it bisects the neighborhood and inhibits access, particularly for bicycles and pedestrians. North Seattle College, UW Medicine's Northwest Hospital, residential areas, and significant parks are located on the west side of the freeway, separated from the current Northgate Transit Center and the future Northgate Link Light Rail Station, scheduled to open in 2021, as well as Northgate's recently built community center, library, employment centers, and regional shopping center. With a pedestrian and bicycle bridge, North Seattle College would be a mere several hundred yards from the transit center, instead of a 25-30-minute bus ride.

The proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge is also an investment in the economy and community of North Seattle College – reducing commute time for students, faculty, and will increase access to North Seattle College's Opportunity Center for Employment and Education, which helps people who are unemployed and low-income find human service and employment resources. The current lack of any reasonable pedestrian and bicycle connections across I-5 limits the potential regional development of the Northgate neighborhood and limits access to the transit-oriented development that is anticipated to follow the opening of the North Link Light Rail.

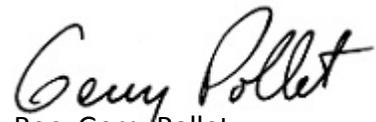
The centerpiece of this project – the proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge – will make it safer and easier to get between the community assets on the east side of I-5 and the multi-modal transit center serving the greater Seattle region on the west. The bridge and expanded bike share network will provide increased access to the regional rail service and make non-motorized access to Northgate Transit Center’s many bus routes accessible for the surrounding North Seattle neighborhoods, which have an above-average number of residents from economically disadvantaged populations.

The need for this project has been identified as a priority in a number of city and regional plans. Seattle has created a wide coalition of support amongst neighborhoods, pedestrian and bicycle advocacy groups, North Seattle College, Sound Transit, and King County. The TIGER Grant will ensure already-committed funds remain dedicated to this critical project. We urge your support of the Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education Project.

Thank you for your consideration,


Sen. David Frocht


Rep. Jessyn Farrell


Rep. Gerry Pollet

Cc: Mayor Edward B. Murray, City of Seattle