

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2016

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

Re: City of Seattle - South Lander Street Grade Separation FAST Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write in strong support of City of Seattle's South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railway Safety Project FASTLANE Grant Application. As Members of the Washington State Congressional delegation, we believe this project is well positioned to further the goals of the U.S. Department of Transportation's FASTLANE grant.

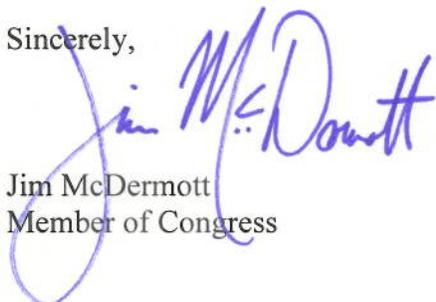
South Lander Street in downtown Seattle is a critical artery for freight traffic, connecting the Port of Seattle to freight operational support centers. Supporting a network of 75,000 existing jobs with an anticipated additional 25,000 jobs by 2040, the South Lander Street corridor provides crucial connections in the largest manufacturing industrial center in the Pacific Northwest.

With roughly 100 train crossings along South Lander Street and surrounding streets, this main thoroughfare for freight transport is closed on average 4.5 hours a day. These closures impact the mobility of all people in the area, as well as the flow of freight traffic critical to the local, regional, and national economies. With Seattle's continued growth, strains on the South Lander Street bottleneck will only increase over time.

City of Seattle's South Lander Street Grade Separation proposal offers a sensible, permanent solution to a perennial and worsening problem. The construction of a grade-separated crossing over the rail tracks will foster smoother transport of both people and goods, reducing delays for 3,000 rail cars and 13,000 vehicles each day. Increased safety will also result from the separation of trains and people either driving, walking or cycling.

The South Lander Street project represents a regional priority that's already earned the commitment of a variety of partners, both public and private. City of Seattle and the Washington State Legislature have committed funds; federal support represents the last mile to bring this critical project to fruition. We fully support City of Seattle's proposal and hope USDOT gives it its full consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress