



Advocating for a Safe, Clean & Moving SODO

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:

On behalf of the SODO Business Improvement Area (BIA), we are writing in support of the City of Seattle's application for \$55 million in funding to complete the South Lander Street Grade Separation Project (Lander Project).

The SODO BIA is a collaboration of more than 600 business, 350 property owners and residents of the South Downtown district. This district is economically diverse with everything from the Port of Seattle, maritime industrial businesses, warehouses, artisan craftspeople, to the Starbucks corporate headquarters. The BIA's mission is "to enhance transportation, safety, and cleanliness for the benefit of SODO property owners, tenants, business, patrons and employees by performing activities that go beyond the basic services provided by the City of Seattle".

As noted in our mission statement, a principle purpose of the BIA is to advocate for improved transportation for the thousands of employees and business owners who commute to and move goods through SODO. In a survey conducted by the Duwamish TMA in 2013 of 450 SODO employees and managers at more than 40 different work sites in SODO. Fifty nine percent of the respondents cited traffic and safety at the district's several rail crossings as a top concern for the district. We have identified the Lander Project as our best opportunity to address the impact of 87 daily road closures and 19 illegal crossings as measured on a typical day.

Fixing Lander Street will create dependable access to one of the largest port operations in the US, improve freight train movements for more than 3,000 rail cars each day and reduce truck delays, congestion and emissions for more than 13,000 vehicles each day. Furthermore it will increase safety by separating trains from people driving, walking, and riding bikes, ensure reliable access for public safety and emergency responders and improve reliability for travel to Interstates 5 and 90 and other key national freight corridors.

We thank you for your consideration of the City's \$55 million application. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can answer any questions or provide additional input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angie Davis".

Angie Davis
Co-President
SODO Business Improvement Area

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Biesold".

Todd Biesold
Co-President
SODO Business Improvement Area