JAY INSLEE
Governor

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

April 7, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to support the City of Seattle's FAST grant application for a grade separated crossing over the BNSF track on South Lander Street between 1st and 4th Avenues. This much needed project will improve the mobility of tens of thousands of people and will directly benefit freight access to port and manufacturing facilities critical to the local and national economy.

South Lander Street is the central artery for freight mobility to and from the Port of Seattle. It is also a key commuter corridor, servicing small businesses, manufacturing and the sports stadium. Each day, roughly 100 train crossings occur on this street, and more than 13,000 vehicles, buses and trucks experience delays, with a total daily average of 4.5 hours of delay and 500 safety violations. With the at-grade rail crossing "bottleneck" removed, the direct connections to Port of Seattle facilities and freight operational support centers will not only improve mobility but also contribute to the stability of 75,000 existing jobs and an additional 25,000 jobs that are forecasted by 2040.

Recognizing the importance of this project, our state allocated $7.0 million in funding last year as part of a historic transportation package that represented the largest transportation investment in state history. This critical mobility improvement project is not only a key investment for our state but also for the entire country as goods move from the Port of Seattle to points south, east and north of the city.

Thank you for your time and attention to the City of Seattle's application. I highly encourage your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

cc: The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Jim McDermott, U.S. Representative

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