

April 11th, 2016

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

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the S. Lander Street Grade Separation And Railroad Safety Project. Our organizations represent people who want to have more choices to get around Seattle, whether by walking, biking or using transit. Transportation Choices Coalition advocates for more and better transportation options in Washington State and Cascade Bicycle Club aims to connect the region's cities with protected bike lanes, neighborhood greenways and trails. Our organizations see this project as a huge opportunity to improve safety and connectivity for those who walk, bike and use transit.

Currently, S. Lander Street poses many challenges for all modes of travel. It is closed an average of 4.5 hours a day due to train traffic and nearly 500 track violations occur each day. This corridor serves several transit routes that provide an important connection between South Seattle, Downtown, and West Seattle, including routes [21](#), [50](#), [37](#), [116](#), [118](#), and [119](#). Given the frequent closings, it does not provide a reliable connection to the SODO light rail station and trail, and can significantly delay these buses.

The S. Lander Street project will construct a grade separated crossing over the BNSF tracks on S. Lander between 1st and 4th Avenues. While this project provides multiple benefits for freight access, it also provides the opportunity to create a dependable safe, comfortable and convenient access to transit from major employers (such as Starbucks) via a 14' multi-trail that connects from 1st Ave to the Sound Transit LINK Light Rail station and the SODO bike/ped trail.

There is currently no easy way to go east/west in this manufacturing and industrial center for those wishing to walk or bike. A grade separated project will separate people walking, biking and driving from trains and provide the opportunity to separate people riding bicycles and walking from fast moving traffic. Fixing S. Lander will provide dramatic health and safety benefits along with increasing transportation options.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Kiker  
Executive Director, Cascade Bicycle Club  
Choices



Shefali Ranganathan  
Executive Director, Transportation

CC: Senator Maria Cantwell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Gov. Jay Inslee  
Congressman Jim McDermott