



April 11, 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 are writing to express our support for the City of Seattle - South Lander Street Grade Separation Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Grant Application. Should this application be successful, the grant will finance construction of the South Lander Street Grade Separation. This project has been prioritized in every study of freight access in the Duwamish, including the 1998 and subsequently updated Freight Action Strategy (FAST Corridor), the joint Port of Seattle/City of Seattle Industrial Areas Freight Access Program, the WSDOT State Freight Plan, and the City of Seattle Freight Master Plan.

The Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is the largest and most diverse business association in the region. Founded in 1882 by local business leaders, the Chamber today is an independent organization representing 2,200 companies and a regional workforce of approximately 700,000. The Chamber is a dedicated advocate for infrastructure that meets current transportation, safety, and service needs and supports our region's long-term economic vitality.

Building the S. Lander Street overpass is important for Seattle's economy. S. Lander Street is a vital route for freight and general travel in the largest manufacturing industrial center in the Pacific Northwest. It provides direct connections to Port of Seattle facilities and freight operational support centers, which contribute to 75,000 family wage jobs and an additional 25,000 jobs that are forecasted by 2040. S. Lander St. also connects transit stops like the Sound Transit SoDo Link light rail station and King County's E-3 busway to major employers like Starbucks.

This overpass will also make badly needed safety improvements by separating railroad traffic from cars, bicycles, and pedestrians. This will improve reliability for both freight rail traffic and Sound Transit's Sounder commuter rail. The S. Lander St. overpass will also reduce congestion and emissions for more than 13,000 vehicles each day.

On behalf of our members, I encourage you to approve the application from the City of Seattle for a \$55 million FAST Grant. This is a project of statewide and national significance that is long-overdue and is a tremendous opportunity for the City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, the Seattle metropolitan region, and Washington state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maud", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Maud Daudon
President & CEO

Cc:

Senator Maria Cantwell

Senator Patty Murray

Governor Jay Inslee

Congressman Jim McDermott