

Hobbs, Sen. Steve  
1825 South lake Stevens Rd  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258  
360-786-7686  
Steve.Hobbs@leg.wa.gov

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:

April 6, 2016

As the Ranking Member on the Washington State Senate Transportation Committee, I am writing to express my support City of Seattle's application for funding of the expedited South Lander Street Grade Separation and Railroad Safety Project.

With the City of Seattle's population continuing to grow at a blistering pace, this project will improve the mobility of tens of thousands of people by removing an average of 4.5 hours of delay and deliver greater reliability for travel to Interstates 5 and 90 and other key national freight corridors. The project will also directly benefit freight access to port and manufacturing facilities which are critical to the local, state and national economy. With this "bottleneck" removed, the direct connections to Port of Seattle facilities and freight operational support centers will contribute to the stability of 75,000 existing jobs and an additional 25,000 jobs that are forecasted by 2040.

For many years now, fixing S. Lander Street has been a priority of the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing Industrial Center. 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.

In recognizing the need, the State Legislature provided \$7 million dollars for South Lander Street in the Connecting Washington Revenue package passed last year. This is a good start, but the state's limited finances necessitate federal assistance if the project is to be completed, and the benefits realized, in a timely manner.

It is my sincere hope that you will give strong consideration to the South Lander Street Grade Separation project when allocating this round of FAST grant funds.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hobbs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Steve Hobbs