



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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April 22, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing today in support of the City of Seattle's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2014 TIGER Discretionary Grants Program for funding for the Northgate Link Light Rail Station Non-motorized Access Project, which includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing Interstate 5 (I-5) and other safety improvements near the Northgate Transit Center and Sound Transit's Link Light Rail Northgate Extension project..

King County supports funding for this proposed bridge, which is a component of the Northgate Link Light Rail Station Non-motorized Access Project. The project will provide a safer and more direct connection across Interstate 5 between the community west of the freeway and King County Metro's Northgate Transit Center, and the future Sound Transit Link Light Rail Station. It would also improve pedestrian and bicycle access between the North Seattle Community College campus and the Northgate Urban Center, located on opposite sides of I-5.

Using current bridges or underpasses, the walking distance between the community college and the transit center is 1.2 miles. The construction of this bridge would cut that distance to approximately .25 miles. This project would reduce interaction between bikers/walkers and the heavy vehicle traffic in the Northgate neighborhood and would encourage transit ridership in the neighborhood east of Interstate 5.

By making non-motorized transportation quicker, easier, and safer, this bridge will result in lower greenhouse gas emission and fossil fuel consumption and reduce parking demand, allowing for the construction of smaller and less expensive parking facilities. It will also improve non-motorized access to the transit center for residents of Seattle's Bitter Lake, Licton Springs, and North Park, which are home to an above-average number of economically disadvantaged residents.

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I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation's consideration of this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line across the middle of the name.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive