



Washington State Legislature

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20509

Re: Northgate Light Rail Station Non-motorized Access Project and Ped-Bike Bridge

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As state legislators representing the 46th Legislative District in the City of Seattle, we are pleased to write in support of the city's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the construction of a pedestrian-bicycle bridge over Interstate 5 (I-5) and related non-motorized access to the future Northgate Light Rail Station.

Seattle's Northgate Urban Center (in the 46th district) is designated as a regional growth center in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040 Plan. However I-5 is blocking the growth and development of this area as it bisects the neighborhood and inhibits access, particularly for bicycles and pedestrians. With a pedestrian and bicycle bridge, North Seattle College would be a mere several hundred yards from the transit center, instead of a 25-30-minute bus ride.

North Seattle College, residential areas, and significant parks are located on the West side of the freeway, separated from the current Northgate Transit Center and the future Northgate Link Light Rail Station, scheduled to open in 2021, as well as Northgate's recently built community center, library, employment centers and regional shopping center. This will increase access to North Seattle College's Opportunity Center for Employment and Education, which helps people who are unemployed and low-income find human service and employment resources. Many people rely on transit to access these resources. The proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge is also an investment in the economy and community of North Seattle reducing commute time for students, faculty, and the access of the important services at the Opportunity Center. The current lack of any reasonable pedestrian and bicycle connections across I-5 limits the potential regional development of the Northgate neighborhood and limits access to the transit-oriented development that's anticipated to follow the opening of the North Link Light Rail.

The centerpiece of this project – the proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge - will make it safer and easier to get between the community assets on the East side of I-5 and the multi-modal transit center on the West serving the greater Seattle region. The bridge, with direct connection to the Northgate Link Light Rail station, will provide increased access to the regional rail service and make non-motorized access to Northgate Transit Center’s many bus routes accessible for the surrounding North Seattle neighborhoods; which have an above-average number of residents from economically disadvantaged populations.

The need for this project has been identified as a priority in a number of city and regional plans. Seattle has created a wide coalition of support amongst neighborhoods, pedestrian and bicycle advocacy groups, North Seattle College, Sound Transit and King County. The TIGER Grant will ensure already-committed funds remain dedicated to this critical project. We urge your support of the Northgate Light Rail Station Non-motorized Access Project.

Thank you for your consideration,



Sen. David Frockt



Rep. Jessyn Farrell



Rep. Gerry Pollet