



General Manager's Office

201 S. Jackson Street
KSC-TR-0415
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

July 15, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of King County Metro, I am writing in support of the City of Shoreline State Route 523 (N/NE 145th Street) & Interstate 5 (I-5) Interchange Project and their application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program grant funding. This project is currently under design, with a total project cost of approximately \$25 million. The City will be requesting funding to complete the Right-of-Way and Construction phases of the project.

The 145th/I-5 interchange, as it is today, creates a bottleneck that interferes with safe and effective connections along this corridor for all users. SR 523 is a regional travel corridor linking I-5 with SR 99 and SR 522, and it provides a critical link for freight, commuters, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. It provides access to the regional transit system that connects or will soon connect to our regional growth centers, including Lynnwood, Bothell Canyon Park, Northgate, the University of Washington, downtown Seattle and, within a few years, downtown Bellevue and Redmond.

The number of commuters accessing these growth centers is projected to increase significantly with the new bus rapid transit and light rail services, which will be operating in this corridor by 2024. Currently, mobility along the corridor is negatively impacted by congestion at the SR523/I-5 Interchange. Improving this interchange will substantially improve mobility for all vehicles, including freight and transit.

The City of Shoreline has built a strong regional partnership for this project with its local elected leaders; Shoreline's state and federal legislative delegations; north Lake Washington cities of Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Woodinville; the City of Seattle; King County; regional transit agencies, including King County Metro and Sound Transit; the Puget Sound Regional Council; the Washington State Department of Transportation; and a number of citizen advocacy organizations.

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As the State Route 523 (N/NE 145th Street) & Interstate 5 (I-5) Interchange project progressed from the conceptual phase to the design phase, the City of Shoreline was asked by the Washington State Department of Transportation to evaluate roundabouts as an alternative approach for the interchange improvements in addition to the originally proposed preferred design option. I understand that the City's traffic modeling results as well as national empirical research have demonstrated that roundabouts are safer and perform better for all modes of transportation at a lower cost than the initial standard proposed improvements.

King County Metro supports this important regional project and urges the Department of Transportation to give careful consideration to this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Gannon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Gannon
General Manager.