



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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May 11, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is pleased to support the City of Longview, Washington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program to fund the SR 432/SR 433 Improvements, also known as Industrial Way/Oregon Way Intersection Project (IWOW Project). The City is seeking a BUILD grant to supplement the existing project funding and address significant deficiencies at the intersection of two critical state highways. Improvements to this intersection will result in improved access for freight, increased safety, reduced congestion, and better industrial access.

In 2015 the Washington State Legislature passed the Connecting Washington funding package, a 16-year, \$16 billion statewide infrastructure investment package funded through a state-wide gas tax increase, and allocated a total of \$85 million toward the needed improvements at this intersection in Longview. The Legislature has continued this commitment, most recently in the enacted 2019 budget, and it is subject to continued endorsement. This project is currently in the design phase, and WSDOT is continuing work with stakeholders on project design as it moves toward construction.

WSDOT supports this project because it will remove critical choke points caused by railroads and roadways that intersect with the highway by grade separating freight and vehicular traffic away from the railroads to improve overall traffic flow. Project improvements will enhance community vitality by improving safety for all types of travelers, and will encourage new business development with more efficient access to industrial centers. I hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Millar'.

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, AICP
Secretary of Transportation