



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District
Peter Browning, Second District
Lisa Janicki, Third District

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: City of Sedro-Woolley Jones/John Liner/Trail Road Corridor Project

Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to support the City of Sedro-Woolley's request for \$24,355,000 in U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 2024 grant program funds to complete the Jones/John Liner/Trail Road Corridor Project.

Sedro-Woolley plans to construct a system of roadway and rail transportation improvements called the Jones/John Liner/Trail Road Corridor to support regional economic development and mobility enhancements. Once complete, the projects will ease congestion on the National Highway System through Sedro-Woolley via a new alternate route north of State Route 20. The transportation system improvements included in this corridor are important to Skagit County's transportation system and a key component of the City's goal of providing transportation infrastructure to support growth of existing and developing industries within the city.

The transportation improvements included in the project are a vital component of the joint plan to revitalize the former Northern State Hospital property in Sedro-Woolley. Skagit County is a partner in this revitalization project with the Port of Skagit and the City, with the collective goal of redeveloping the former Northern State property as the Sedro-Woolley Innovation for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Center. Transit improvements along the corridor were a major assumption in the transportation analysis prepared as part of the Planned Action Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SWIFT Center. We support the proposed project to help the City of Sedro-Woolley fulfill its EIS mitigation requirements relating to transportation system improvements, to support development of the SWIFT Center, and to further additional family-wage jobs in Sedro-Woolley and the County.

We are in full support of the City of Sedro-Woolley's RAISE grant application. We recognize the need for the completion of a new transportation corridor to support the economic revitalization of the city and provide needed traffic relief on the nearby highway system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Peter Browning, Chair


Ron Wesen, Commissioner


Lisa Janicki, Commissioner