Letters of Support

United State Government
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene
Senator Patty Murray
United States Forest Service, Local Program

Washington State/Regional
Washington Department of Transportation
Puget Sound Region Council

Local Government
City of Arlington
City of Darrington
City of Granite Falls
Economic Alliance of Snohomish County
Granite Falls Fire District
Granite Falls School District Transportation
Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office

Private/Non Profit
American Whitewater
October 10, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by Snohomish County to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program.

The Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement Project addresses a critical infrastructure project that supports the local economy and tourism in rural Snohomish County. The current bridge provides access for freight transportation and tourism through the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway, Mt. Pilchuck State Park and the Mount Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest. Tourism is the third largest market in Snohomish County and accounts for an $11 million countywide impact annually. If the bridge fails, the detour route is 94 miles on a road that is only built to minimal Forest Service standards and is closed during the winter months. This project will ensure safe access by replacing the current bridge which is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete.

Snohomish County has dedicated a significant matching contribution of 20%, exceeding the requirement for projects in rural areas. This project will provide a safe and reliable transportation network while supporting the economic competitiveness of the area. Additionally, it will ensure access of rural residents to essential services.

I ask for full and fair consideration of Snohomish County’s application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
October 13, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to write in support of Snohomish County, Washington, for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement project submitted under the U.S. Dept. of Transportation’s FY 2017 Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The County seeks $17.4 million through the program, which will fund 80% of projected construction costs.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest, an area exemplary of the natural beauty of Washington’s 1st District. This highway is crucial for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for residents in the rural townships of Everson, Robe Valley, and Silverton. The bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably, and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards. We cannot afford to wait until disaster falls before taking action.

I applaud Snohomish County for taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety and functionality of this corridor, and I encourage your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of their application.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704
October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by Snohomish County, Washington to the
U.S. Department of Transportation’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery
(TIGER) Discretionary Grants program for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement Project.

Snohomish County is seeking a TIGER grant to construct a new bridge across the South Fork
Stillaguamish River. This project would replace an 82-year-old bridge that is functionally
obsolete. The current bridge is too narrow to accommodate more than one large vehicle at a time,
which is challenging given its use as a transportation corridor by freight and residents alike. If
the bridge were to fail, the detour route would be 94 miles on a road that remains closed in the
winter and was only built to minimal forest service standards.

The new bridge would be wider and longer than the existing bridge, feature sidewalks and
associated drainage and utility work, and meet current standards while providing increased
traffic capacity. This project would make critical improvements to a transportation corridor that
is heavily used to transport natural resources that are vital to Washington’s economy, including
timber, sand, gravel, and aggregate resources.

The new bridge is part of the Regional Freight Strategy and would connect the Granite Falls
Alternative Route and State Route 92 which is a T2 freight corridor, and a critical route to the
Aggregate Quarries in the region which provide construction materials for projects throughout
the Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Regional Council has identified that construction aggregates,
the primary output of this area, constitutes the largest single product moved by truck in the
Central Puget Sound Region. In 2010 the volume of this commodity totaled 35 million tons and
by 2035 this tonnage is projected to increase to approximately 42 million tons.

Snohomish County has completed the 30 percent design review milestone, and secured 20
percent of the project cost through local and state funding. The successful completion of the
Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement Project would provide direct access to the rural
townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silvertown, and connect local residents to key employment
areas in the greater Puget Sound. Finally, it would increase recreational opportunities for tourists
and residents alike through the Mountain Loop Highway Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker-
Snoqualmie National Forest, which receives 5 million visitors annually.
Thank you for your consideration of Snohomish County's application. Please contact Samara Ressler in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray
United States Senator
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER Letter of Support for replacing Granite Falls Bridge No. 102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge is on a critical freight corridor for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources vital to the Puget Sound Region. This bridge also provides direct access to the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway for tourism and outdoor recreationists living in Snohomish County and the greater North Puget Sound metropolitan area. A wide variety of outdoor activities are offered on National Forest lands in the scenic Cascade Mountains east of Granite Falls, including hiking, biking, camping, fishing, kayaking, rock climbing, winter sports, sightseeing, bird watching, and educational opportunities. The bridge is also a critical link for residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton.

Anecdotally there is evidence that public recreation use is increasing in the South Fork Stillaguamish River and the Mountain Loop corridor, especially at several of the popular trailheads, where parking is limited and has overflowed onto the Mountain Loop Highway.

The Forest Service is close to making a decision on the S. Fork Stillaguamish vegetation management project, which would thin between 2,160 and 3,600 acres with multiple timber sales over a period of 10 years. This would contribute to an increase in log truck traffic on the Mountain Loop Highway and Falls Bridge as the federal timber sales are sold.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles, of which the middle portion over Barlow Pass is closed during the winter months. Of the 94 mile detour route, a 14-mile segment of the 54-mile Mountain Loop Highway between Granite Falls and Darrington is unpaved, narrow and winding, as it was built to a minimal Forest Service standard. If the detour route became necessary, the 14 mile gravel and dirt segment would not be able to safely accommodate increased public and commercial traffic volumes.
I would like to request your consideration of this important project for funding through the TIGER program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JAMIE KINGSBURY
Forest Supervisor
October 6, 2017

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 is pleased to support Snohomish County’s 2017 TIGER grant application for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 project.

The proposed project will replace the current bridge providing direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. The bridge carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River and is used for recreational opportunities and tourism, and for residents of the rural towns of Verlot, Rodeo Valley, and Silverton. Additionally, it is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current bridge deck, considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete, is not wide enough for two large vehicles to comfortably pass, and if it were to fail, the detour route is ninety-four miles. This is the same route that was opened as a detour route after the Oso landslide in 2014.

I hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Roger Millar, PE, AICP  
Secretary of Transportation
October 5, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Puget Sound Regional Council, I am writing in support of the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This highway is used for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. This bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.

The project is consistent with the region’s long range metropolitan transportation plan, Transportation 2040, and is consistent with the region’s long-range growth strategy included in VISION 2040. If this project is selected for funding, PSRC will work with Snohomish County to amend the new funding into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program.

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Josh Brown, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council
October 5, 2017

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

RE: TIGER Letter of Support – Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This highway is used for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for the residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. This bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel, and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably, and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tolbert
Mayor
10/11/17

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This highway is used for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Rode Valley, and Silvertone. This bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

Daniel O. Rankin  
Mayor, Town of Darrington
October 4, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This highway is used for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. This bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brent Kirk
City Manager
City of Granite Falls
October 13, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

As the economic development organization/chamber to Snohomish County, Economic Alliance Snohomish County is continually working to find investments in our community that will create jobs, improve mobility for people and freight, and that support our businesses.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This highway is used for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. This bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patrick Pierce
President & CEO, EASC
October 5, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590  

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington  

Dear Secretary Chao:  

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.  

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The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.  

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

Jim Haverfield  
Fire Chief
October 11, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This bridge provides direct access to the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway and the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. This highway is used for recreational opportunities, tourism, and for residents in the rural townships of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. This bridge is on a vital-freight route for transport of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources critical to the Puget Sound Region.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably and is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards.

I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

Delana Reeves

Delana Reeves  
Transportation Supervisor  
Lake Stevens / Granite Falls School Districts
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

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I would like to request your consideration and selection of this important project.

Sincerely,

Ty Trenary, Sheriff
October 12th, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support - Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT TIGER Grant program.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954. We have approximately 6000 individual members and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater paddlers across the nation. American Whitewater’s mission is to conserve and restore America’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. American Whitewater has an interest in conservation of and access to the South Fork Stillaguamish River that supports whitewater recreation.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries Mountain Loop Highway traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge right-of-way is an important access point for the whitewater paddling community as it serves as the take-out for the whitewater run on Robe Canyon of the South Fork Stillaguamish River, identified as one of the 50 Whitewater Classics of North America.¹ Paddlers from around the world use this access point to experience this challenging expert whitewater run.

We request your consideration and selection of this important project. We have an interest in being engaged in this project as it moves forward given the importance of the site for public access to the river.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director