July 9, 2018

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

Re: Snohomish County’s application to the BUILD (DtosS9-18-RA-BUILD1) program

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by Snohomish County to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) 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 route 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.

For this rural project, Snohomish County has dedicated a significant matching contribution of 20 percent. 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. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
July 10, 2018

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

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT BUILD Grant program. This project falls under the Administration’s stated priority of increasing support for rural infrastructure improvements.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway, which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silvertown. The bridge is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region’s infrastructure, construction industry, and economy.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This vital bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94 mile route is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards. A closure could prevent or delay imperative emergency services; the County cannot afford to wait until disaster falls before taking action.

I applaud Snohomish County for their continued efforts 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
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 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement Project.

Snohomish County is seeking a BUILD grant to construct a new bridge across the South Fork Stillaguamish River. This project would replace an 83-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 secured 20 percent of the project cost through local 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 Silverton, and connect local residents to key employment areas in the greater Puget Sound. It would also 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: BUILD 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 BUILD 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 recreation opportunities, which is increasing along with the recent population growth in the nearby Puget Sound Region. 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.  

In addition, the Mountain Loop Highway and Suiattle area have been selected by the Forest to be the focal area of the Treasured Landscape Initiative with National Forest Foundation (NFF). NFF’s Treasured Landscape is a five year fundraising effort focused on a specific Forest to work with community partners to expand restoration and outdoor experience opportunities while increasing the collective capacity of local groups to engage in hands-on stewardship and recreational infrastructure improvements.  

The Forest Service is also close to making a decision on the South 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 BUILD program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JAMIE KINGSBURY
Forest Supervisor
June 28, 2018

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

RE:  BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program. We also verify that the project is consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region’s infrastructure and construction industry.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This important bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94 mile route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards. A closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.

If 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.

Sincerely,

Josh Brown, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council
July 2, 2018

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 2018 BUILD 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 provides access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest along the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for travelers across the state of Washington. 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, at 340-feet long and 20-feet wide, is 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. Part of the ninety-four mile detour route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards.

I hope you will give this project serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
Secretary of Transportation
June 27, 2018

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

RE: BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region’s infrastructure and construction industry.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This important bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94 mile route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards. A closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.

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

Sincerely,

Ty Trenary  
Snohomish County Sheriff
July 12, 2018

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

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Port of Everett, we would like to express our support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT BUILD Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. Most of the Port’s timber products are sourced from East Snohomish County and exported out of our deep-water seaport.

The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region’s infrastructure and construction industry.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This important bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94 mile route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards. A closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.

I appreciate your consideration of funding for this critical infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lefeber  
Acting CEO/Executive Director  
Port of Everett
June 27, 2018

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

RE: BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington while improving a vital piece of rural Snohomish County. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region’s infrastructure and construction industry.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This important bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94 mile route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards. A closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patrick Pierce  
President & CEO, EASC
July 2, 2018

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

RE: BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast 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 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,

Brent Kirk
City Manager
City of Granite Falls
June 27th, 2018

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

RE: BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program.  

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region’s infrastructure and construction industry.  

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This important bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94-mile route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards. A closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.  

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

Sincerely,  

Jim Haverfield  
Fire Chief  

Fire Commissioners  
Kevin Hayes, Ron Stephenson, Jesse James  

Fire Chief  
Jim Haverfield
July 9, 2018

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

RE:  BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast 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 Highway 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 used daily to transport our students to and from school from their rural homes. It is also 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
Transportation Supervisor
Lake Stevens / Granite Falls School Districts
Date 7/5/2018

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

RE: BUILD 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 BUILD Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region's infrastructure and construction industry.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This important bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles. Part of this 94 mile route is closed during the winter months and is built to minimal forest service standards. A closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Daniel O. Rankin
Mayor