

[DATE]

The Honorable [NAME]
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: [FULL GRANT PROJECT TITLE] Grant Letter of Support

Dear Secretary [NAME]:

On behalf of the Tacoma School District, I am excited to submit this letter of support for the [LOCAL AGENCY]'s [GRANT PROJECT TITLE] Grant application for a community planning study to identify improvements for Tacoma's Interstate-5 (I-5) crossings. This study and any future construction related to the study is incredibly important to the health and safety of our school communities, especially because I-5 is an immediate transportation hazard for some of our schools.

The Tacoma School District has three schools where I-5 is included within the school's enrollment boundary: [SCHOOL SITE] Elementary, [SCHOOL SITE] Middle School, and [SCHOOL SITE] High School. With I-5 being an identified hazard, the Tacoma School District does provide transportation for students to get to and from school. However, bussing is only provided for students during school hours. Bussing is not offered for family engagement activities, such as parent-teacher conferences or family event opportunities. Unfortunately, if a family cannot drive a car, they must navigate the I-5 crossings in order to attend these after school opportunities. The interstate causes a great divide for families to not only access school but also everyday needs, such as grocery stores, medical facilities, and transit centers. Additionally, students and families are negatively impacted by air pollution and noise from I-5.

For many years now, the administration of these schools has been hoping and requesting improvements for the I-5 crossings near these schools. If funded, we will eagerly participate in the planning study and provide comments and direction on how to improve these crossings for our students and families and identify placemaking opportunities. The Tacoma School District supports the [LOCAL AGENCY]'s grant application and encourages the Department of Transportation to provide grant funds for this important work.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,