

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 26, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write in full support of the Washington State Department of Transportation – Ferries Division grant application for the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Passenger Ferry Grant Program. The application, for the Elevated Pedestrian Connector (EPC) project at the Seattle Multimodal Terminal at Colman Dock, is a vital element of the overall reconstruction of the Seattle Multimodal Terminal. The project will replace the aging and seismically vulnerable components of the terminal to ensure safe and reliable ferry service for years to come.

The 21,000 square foot EPC will serve as a partially covered pedestrian plaza that provides access and egress for all walk-on passengers using Washington State Ferries (WSF) service on the Seattle-Bainbridge and Seattle-Bremerton routes, in addition to passenger-only ferry (POF) service provided by King County Marine Division and Kitsap Transit. The EPC will establish seamless connections to the new main terminal building and the new POF facility from the Marion Street Pedestrian Bridge and pedestrian promenade on Alaskan Way, including taxi and accessible drop off points and two new local bus stops.

The Seattle Terminal serves as a multimodal hub in the central Puget Sound region, connecting King and Kitsap counties through ferry routes between Seattle, Bremerton, Bainbridge Island, Vashon Island, West Seattle, and Kingston. In 2018, total ridership reached more than 10 million passengers, including over 5.7 million walk-on passengers, making the Seattle Terminal WSF’s largest and busiest terminal. With a projected 53 percent increase in walk-on ridership by 2040, the EPC aims to increase the capacity at the Seattle Terminal to support growth in non-motorized modes, reduce single occupancy vehicle (SOV) usage, and provide consistent connections to other high occupancy vehicle (HOV) modes of transportation converging at Colman Dock.

This project will significantly improve the safety and efficiency of high volumes of foot-passengers independent from vehicle and bicycle traffic below, while providing a queuing space with a number of pedestrian amenities and multimodal connections at the Seattle Terminal. I strongly support WSDOT’s Passenger Ferry Grant Program application for the Elevated Pedestrian Connector (EPC) project at the Seattle Multimodal Terminal at Colman Dock and ask that you give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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