

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 15, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Snohomish County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement project.

The Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement project addresses a critical infrastructure need and will support the local economy and tourism in rural Snohomish County. 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 access for freight transportation and tourism through the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway, Mt. Pilchick State Park and the Mount Baker- Snoqualmie National Forest. According to the County, tourism is the third largest market in Snohomish County and accounts for an \$11 million countywide impact annually. The Granite Falls Bridge is essential to connecting visitors with tourism centers.

The 86-year old bridge is 340-foot-long and 20-foot-wide bridge and is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. 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. With grant funding, the County will construct a wider, longer three-span replacement bridge that meets current design standards. This project will ensure safe access by replacing the current bridge which the Federal Highway Administration considers fracture critical and functionally obsolete.

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 Snohomish County's application.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

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