

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 25, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the City of Seattle's application for the FY22 Bridge Investment Program (BIP) planning project grant funding for the 4th Ave/Argo Railyard Bridge Replacement Planning Study.

The City of Seattle is applying for BIP funding to plan for the eventual replacement of the 4th Ave/Argo Bridge, which has been partially closed since October 2017, with all modes of traffic restricted from using the northbound curb lane. The Substructure of the bridge is rated in poor condition as a result of cracked cantilevered concrete pier caps. The City requires ample planning to minimize and proactively manage impacts to surrounding industrial and residential communities, and the nearby seaport terminals during the construction phase of the project.

First built in 1933, the 4th Ave/Argo Bridge is located over the Argo Railyard, one of the most important commercial freight hubs in the City and in the greater Northwest region given its proximity to the Port of Seattle and to major state and federal highways such as I-5, I-90, and State Route 99. High volumes of trucked commercial freight travel over the railyard via City owned and operated bridges on 1st Avenue South and 4th Avenue South. The two corridors, including these two bridges, are crucial to ensuring equitable health and access opportunities, and to the City's economic resilience.

The two corridors are within the SODO Qualified Opportunity Zone and the center of Seattle's industrial job base, connecting seven Port of Seattle Terminals and hundreds of manufacturing, warehousing, and commercial businesses to the Argo railyard and the national highway system. With the volume of freight moving through the railyard and surrounding industrial area, and the complexity of bridge rehabilitation or replacement, the 4th Ave/Argo Bridge is in critical need of investment. Planning for the bridge's replacement is critical to supporting continued growth and freight activity in the region.

For these reasons, I request your full and fair consideration of the City of Seattle's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

