

MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 3, 2022

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 the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) application to the FY22 INFRA federal discretionary grant program for the Salmon Bay Bridge Rehabilitation project. This project will return the structure to a state of good repair by replacing the lift bridge counterweight and pivot mechanism components, extending its lifespan another 50 years.

Built in the early 1900s, the Salmon Bay Bridge is a double-track lift bridge that supports multimodal transportation for BNSF freight rail, Amtrak intercity passenger trains and Sound Transit Sounder North commuter rail service. The ability to lift the bridge span and allow maritime traffic to move from Lake Washington to the Puget Sound and beyond is a critical piece of the multimodal network in the Pacific Northwest.

Approximately 35 trains pass over the bridge each day carrying passengers and freight that otherwise would travel on the highway system, further straining the roadway network. The continued safe and efficient operation of this bridge is critical to the supply chain that connects Seattle and the ports to inland markets.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of WSDOT's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator