

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES:  
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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

May 25, 2011

Victor Mendez  
Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Mendez:

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation, Community and System Preservation program. Funding from this program is requested to assess an alternative option to ease traffic congestion around Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) and Interstate 5.

TRPC is requesting \$630,000 to evaluate the efficacy of converting a general purpose lane on I-5 to an HOV lane during peak times. TRPC is working with JBLM, local cities, counties and state agencies to focus on collaborative solutions to mitigate the traffic congestion around JBLM and better serve the commuters.

In recent years traffic congestion has increased significantly due in part to the increased number of active duty and reserve soldiers stationed at JBLM. One growth projection on JBLM shows that the number of individuals living and working around the base could exceed 90,000 by 2015.

Successful study and implementation of this project will vastly improve the transportation on I-5 around JBLM and better serve the community. Thank you for your consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

PM/ab