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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4702

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

I write in strong support of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) 2015 TIGER grant application for the Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal project.

As the largest ferry system in the country, WSDOT Ferries is a core component of the Puget Sound region's transportation network. The Mukilteo-Clinton ferry route is part of State Route 525, the major corridor connecting Whidbey Island to employment centers in the Seattle-Everett metropolitan area. It is WSDOT Ferries' busiest route for vehicle traffic and has the second highest annual ridership, serving nearly 4 million riders in 2014. Residents, employers, and businesses rely on the critical Mukilteo-Clinton route to safely and reliably move people, goods, and services across Puget Sound.

The Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal project will replace the aging and seismically vulnerable Mukilteo ferry terminal with a new facility that improves efficiency, safety, and multimodal connectivity. The existing terminal is inadequate and difficult for passengers to access. It is plagued by traffic congestion, safety concerns, and conflicts between vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The new Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal will feature separated loading for pedestrians, dedicated loading for bicycles and carpools, a bus transit center with multiple bays, and improved connections to the adjacent commuter rail station.

Beyond these transportation improvements, the new terminal will provide significant environmental enhancements. WSDOT will remove the existing terminal pier and a large tank farm pier, eliminating thousands of tons of toxic debris from Puget Sound and eliminating three acres of overwater coverage. In addition, the Mukilteo waterfront will be restored – along with the community's access to the waterfront.

Ferry riders, communities on both sides of the ferry route, and the broader Seattle-Everett metropolitan area will all reap benefits from this project. As a result of the substantial transportation, economic, and environmental benefits, this project has garnered widespread regional support. I strongly support the 2015 TIGER application for the Mukilteo Multimodal Ferry Terminal project and encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
US Congressman
Washington, 2nd District