



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**  
**Paula J. Hammond, P.E.**  
Secretary of Transportation

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October 24, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express WSDOT's support for Kittitas County's application for TIGER III discretionary grant funds for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project - Phase 2B Capacity and Safety Improvement Project.

Interstate 90 is the main east-west transportation corridor in Washington State, linking Puget Sound to eastern Washington and beyond. As a critical freight corridor, I-90 across Snoqualmie Pass is a key component of the future economic vitality of the entire state. Currently, the I-90 traveler may experience congestion, delays due to avalanche closures, rough pavement conditions, rock slide activity and potential wildlife collisions on the highway. The project will address these issues by making several improvements, including: adding capacity by widening the Interstate from four to six lanes; replacing deteriorating concrete pavement; and improving visibility and sight distance by reducing sharp curves. The project will also protect both the traveling public and animals by installing two new box culverts. Should Kittitas County be successful in securing a TIGER III discretionary grant, WSDOT will partner with the County to provide the necessary local match. I hope you will give serious consideration to this project.

If you have any questions about this project please contact the project sponsor or Allison Camden at (360) 705-7507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hammond', written over a large, stylized flourish.

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.  
Secretary of Transportation