

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The below-signed members of Washington’s Congressional delegation are writing to reaffirm our support for the Cascadia High-Speed Rail proposal. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) submitted a Federal-State Partnership application to FRA in April 2023 to advance this visionary project. Washington has pledged significant matching state funds for the grant. The policy and technical committees convened by WSDOT, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and British Columbia continue to meet and stand ready to move forward in the next phase of planning. We urge you to provide the federal funding needed to advance this visionary proposal.

The Cascadia High-Speed Rail project has the potential to transform the Pacific Northwest. It allows us to create a better-connected economic megaregion—stretching from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seattle, Washington to Portland, Oregon—that will be poised for global competitiveness and future prosperity.

A key component of our vision is a fast, frequent, reliable, and environmentally responsible transportation system that unites this Cascadia megaregion. In addition to travel up to 250 mph, a High-Speed Rail system also leads to better access to jobs, affordable housing, climate initiatives, shared resources, enhanced productivity, increased tourism, and economic growth.

Seattle, Portland, and Vancouver are expected to add three to four million more people by 2050—joining the nine million people who already live there. The Cascadia High-Speed Rail project is one way we can manage that level of growth. Providing a fast and efficient transportation system would allow people to live in less densely populated areas and work anywhere in the megaregion. It also would facilitate more resiliency, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing across many sectors of our economy, uniting us in ways that are not possible today.

The Federal-State Partnership proposal currently being considered by your agency exemplifies the objectives set forth in the criteria for the grant, including:

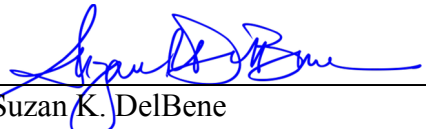
- Creating stronger connections between Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia supporting equitable growth and job creation, catalyzing economic opportunities across the Cascadia region
- Decreasing emissions on Interstate 5 by reducing congestion, helping to mitigate climate change and supporting sustainability and resilience in the region
- Reducing barriers to opportunities and supporting an equitable transportation system that includes a network of transportation options, connecting people to jobs, educational institutions, housing, and regional destinations
- Transforming the nation’s transportation infrastructure by linking communities and job centers to accommodate our growing populations
- Focusing on equitable engagement and ensuring early collaboration with Tribes and First Nations, as well as historically underserved communities throughout the corridor

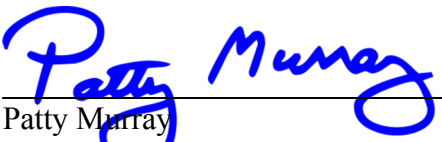
This funding will support pre-NEPA technical and advisory study planning requirements that will ready the project to advance into the design phase. This critical analysis and robust public engagement are essential in the decision-making process. As one of the largest mega-projects ever undertaken in our region, we need your support to provide the due diligence needed to determine how a project of this magnitude can be built.

Projects like the Cascadia High-Speed Rail system are designed to serve future generations—our children and grandchildren—and that type of forward-thinking is what is needed to provide them with the infrastructure they need to succeed. As representatives for our current and future constituents in Washington state, we believe this project deserves in-depth analysis and the funding needed to move this project forward.


We appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws, for the Cascadia High-Speed Rail project.

Sincerely,



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress


Patty Murray
United States Senator

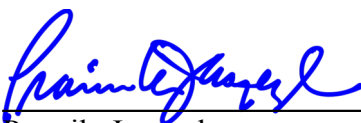

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress


Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Derek Kilmer
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