



June 14, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

I am writing to congratulate and thank you for your leadership in the development of the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act. Critically, the legislation focuses not only on the need for bold action to provide the country with nearly \$500 billion to improve and enhance our infrastructure over the next five years. It provides the policy changes necessary to allow capital development of existing projects to continue even in the wake of the massive revenue losses transit providers nationwide have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Specifically, I want to express my appreciation for the inclusion of provisions that will allow projects with Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGAs) to increase their federal share by 30 percent. Sound Transit's two current FFGAs have low federal shares of just 36 percent and 25 percent. With this provision, the immediate infusion of additional federal dollars is precisely what Sound Transit needs right now to give us the best chance to continue to make progress on what is currently the largest transit expansion program in the country.

Just last week, as a result of the fiscal impacts of COVID-19, the Sound Transit Board of Directors took the first steps in developing a realignment strategy of our capital development program. This realignment is necessary as we are currently projecting almost \$1 billion revenue loss for 2020 and 2021 in the event of a severe recession. The ability to increase the federal share of our existing FFGAs would have a tremendous positive impact on our ability to keep the expansion program on track, and has the added benefit of aiding in the economic recovery of the Puget Sound region by putting thousands of people to work as we build mobility options for our citizens.

Our support of the INVEST in America Act is anchored by our deep appreciation of your efforts to ensure the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis are limited -- through both near-term increases in funding in Fiscal Year 2021 and most importantly, the COVID-19 Capital Investment Grant provision mentioned above.

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Thank you again for your bold leadership to ensure that the nation's transportation system will recover and grow through infrastructure investments that will secure the future of our communities. We look forward to working with you and the Members of our Congressional delegation in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Rogoff', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter M. Rogoff
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Members of the Puget Sound Congressional Delegation
Ann Snell McNeil, Government and Community Relations, Sound Transit

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