



FRANKLIN COUNTY

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Secretary Raymond LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of Franklin County, Washington, we, the Board of County Commissioners, being the legislative authority of the county, are sending this letter to support our application to the Department of Transportation (DOT) TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program for the East Foster Wells project.

The need for this project was first recognized in 1982 and was adopted at that time in our 1983-1988 Transportation Improvement Plan and has been included in all subsequent Transportation Improvement Plans since that date. In 1993 the county received Federal Highway Administration Fund Authorization and the Board of County Commissioners established by Resolution No. 93-175, County Road Project (CRP) 500 – East Foster Wells Road.

After conducting Open House Public Meetings and incorporating public comments, a Needs Study was approved by the Board of County Commissioners by Resolution 2001-081 in 2001. In 2002, public meetings were held for the design and location of the project. The county also received concurrence from the Washington State Archaeology and Historic Preservation on the Cultural Resources Survey and the Environmental Classification Summary was approved, completing the National Environmental Act (NEPA) process.

Since 2002, the project has been phased based on available funding. All of the required right of way has been acquired and certified by the State of Washington and the Federal Highway Administration and the first mile of the three-plus mile project has been constructed. All utility relocation work and the final design for the first phase of the project have been completed.

To date, a total of \$1.3 million dollars has been spent through county and FHWA funding. The current estimate for the final phase is \$2,930,000. The county competed regionally and received STP funding authority from the Benton Franklin Council of Governments in the amount of \$1,659,635 through FHWA funding and is committing \$260,365 of county road matching funds towards the completion of this project. The TIGER II Grant request for \$1,010,000 would provide the county sufficient funding to complete this project of regional importance.

As the legislative authority, consider this letter a certification of the availability of \$260,365 of county road funds for the project.

We thank you for your time and consideration for funding this vital component of Franklin County's Transportation Plan.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick Miller".

Rick Miller
Chair Pro Tem