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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 31, 2017

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WHITMAN

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the Spokane Tribe of Indians to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants* program for the construction of two multilane roundabouts on US Highway 2 in Airway Heights, construction of a 1.9 mile shared use pathway connecting Fairchild Airforce Base with the City of Airway Heights, partial implementation of the City of Airway Heights' *US 2 Corridor Plan*, and to construct an alternate local bypass to US Highway 2.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians and their partners in this application are working to add and modernize strategic parts of the City of Airway Heights and the Greater City of Spokane area. Transportation improvements to the Greater Spokane have widely been stagnate for years, modernization and improved traffic patterns are needed to replace existing unsafe pedestrian and cyclist conditions and bottlenecked roads. US Highway 2, in its present state, does not have the capacity to accommodate present levels of vehicular and multi-modal transportation movements. Aspects of the Spokane Tribe of Indians project will increase vehicular flow, intersection capacity, safety and minimize commute time for those that utilize US Highway 2. Further, the construction of a 1.9 mile shared use pathway, is the result of a multi-stakeholder planning process that will create a safe bike and pedestrian pathway connecting Fairchild Airforce Base to the City of Airway Heights, which currently does not exist.

These construction projects are vital to the renovation and modernization of rural Eastern Washington. Currently, there is limited multi-modal access to Fairchild Airforce Base and the 2,000 residents that live on-site, and nearly 6,000 jobs it provides to the region. Fairchild Airforce Base requires all off-site employees to live within a 1-hour commute from the base. The congestion created by the one-mile radius policy places an increasing burden on traffic demands for off-site employees. As the mission at Fairchild Airforce base continues to grow we must support the surrounding infrastructure. Further, the projected growth and expansion of manufacturing zones in and around the Spokane International Airport will increase freight movements and congestion along US Highway 2, updated routes that take traffic flow into account are vital to the growth and rural expansion in Eastern Washington.

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Modernization on US Highway 2 and the surrounding area is essential for the continued and expected growth of Airway Heights and the Greater Spokane area. This project would enable the local and regional commercial and residencies to offer new job opportunities and expansion of manufacturing zones.

Finally, this project would support both the local and regional economy by strengthening the regional infrastructure and increase the area's ability to compete in the local, regional, and international marketplace.

We respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to the Spokane Tribe of Indians and their partners' application.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress