



March 15, 2012

City of Tacoma Mayor Strickland
City of Tacoma
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Mayor Strickland:

I am pleased to write in support of the City of Tacoma's application for a Transportation Investment Generating economic Recovery (TIGER IV) grant through the Federal Highway Administration under the U.S. Department of Transportation. This grant would provide funding to replace a failing bridge over the Puyallup River serving a major truck and commercial route in Washington State.

Prior to the 2006 weight restrictions, more than 16,200 vehicles crossed the bridge each day, including 800 trucks moving cargo for local businesses, and to and from the Port of Tacoma (approximately five percent in 2006). The 84-year-old bridge suffers from significant structural issues, including failed support columns, which could lead to its ultimate closure. The loss of this bridge would deprive the area of a vital secondary network to the already highly congested Interstate 5, resulting in further gridlock on the interstate and local roads. Further congestion on these local roadways would represent a dramatic cost increase that would be harmful to area businesses as well as many of our customers, whose \$31 billion dollars in annual trade are connected to nearly 43,000 jobs in Pierce County.

The Port of Tacoma's history of freight infrastructure partnerships is successful and positive. I understand that the current Hylebos Bridge project is nearing completion and City of Tacoma staff reports a cost savings of approximately \$1.8 to \$2.3 million. Congratulations on a well-managed construction project!

As you may recall, the Port of Tacoma and the City of Tacoma entered into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) which commits the Port of Tacoma to a maximum of \$10 million in Right of Way acquisitions with the Port's purchasing dollars contributed to the Hylebos Bridge renovation.

On March 15, 2012, the Port of Tacoma Commission authorized me to prepare a Letter of Commitment to the City of Tacoma for a Port contribution of up to \$500,000 in additional right-of-way acquisition. The City would allocate these dollars for the Puyallup River Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Our assumptions upon which this contribution is based are as follows:

TIGER IV Grant

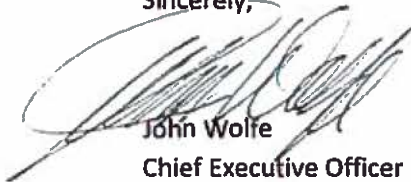
Page 2 of 2

- A minimum of \$500,000 remains from our \$10 million commitment to the Hylebos Bridge (per the latest City of Tacoma project financials \$1.8 to \$2.3 million Port of Tacoma dollars remain)
- The Hylebos Bridge is open and operational to road and maritime traffic
- The \$500,000 would be applied to future right-of-way purchases valued per the Port's appraisal
- The City of Tacoma obtains TIGER IV and/or other funding to fill the current budget gap of approximately \$13 million in 2012 and the Port contribution is the final dollars for the project
- The City of Tacoma would commit the \$500,000 towards the Puyallup River Bridge Rehabilitation Project

When TIGER IV dollars are awarded to the City of Tacoma for this project, City of Tacoma staff and Port of Tacoma staff may either modify the current Hylebos Bridge ILA or prepare a new document.

In summary, we support your TIGER IV application as described above because the Puyallup River Bridge Rehabilitation Project creates safe, reliable and economical transportation for freight movement and vehicular traffic. This project will provide benefits to a large number of users including employees commuting to and through the Port, truck traffic in and out of the Port, and local businesses operating in Tacoma and Fife.

Sincerely,



John Wolfe
Chief Executive Officer