



## Snohomish County

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### County Council

Stephanie Wright, Chair  
Megan Dunn, Vice-Chair  
Nate Nehring  
Sam Low  
Jared Mead

April 5, 2021

### County Executive

Dave Somers

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: U.S. 2 Trestle Capacity Improvements & Westbound Trestle Replacement FY 2022 Member Designated Project Request

Dear Congressman Larsen:

We are writing with our strong support of Snohomish County's request for federal funding for the U.S. 2 Trestle Capacity Improvements & Westbound Trestle Replacement project under the Transportation and Infrastructure FY 2022 Member Designated Project Program.

The economic and community impact of this project is broad and far reaching as the trestle connects the large eastside residential population to more than 50,000 jobs in Everett and the I-5 corridor. The trestle is a high value freight corridor supporting economic growth and commerce and is a major commuting route for Naval Station Everett personnel. Built in 1960, the structure is over 50 years old, narrow and vulnerable to stalled autos, accidents, and earthquakes. Still, it is greatly needed during emergencies and is a designated FEMA tsunami escape route for the surrounding communities.

The impact on congestion in the region cannot be overstated as referenced by the WSDOT Annual Traffic Report for 2016 which showed 80,000 daily trips across the Trestle with 7,200 (9%) comprised of freight shipments that carried nearly 10 million tons per day. By comparison, Seattle's Viaduct carried only 66,000 trips. The Trestle has seen an annual traffic growth of 4.7% for the past 20 years, which is double the annual growth rate for Snohomish County (2.3%), and yet it operates beyond designed capacity and results in significant congestion. Further, current projections from the Puget Sound Regional Council projects 113,000 trips each day by 2030.

The funding request is for \$20 million to complete the remaining NEPA and environmental process. Planning, design, and cost-estimation work on the project have been ongoing for 15 years and include a U.S. 2 Route Development Plan, East End Interchange Justification Report (IJR), and Funding & Finance Study. Pre-NEPA work is underway and a west-end IJR begins this Spring.

Again, we support federal funding for this critical project under the FY 2022 Member Designated Project Program. Please contact us with any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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**Stephanie Wright**  
Council Chair

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**Dave Somers**  
County Executive

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**Megan Dunn**  
Council Vice-Chair

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**Sam Low**  
Councilmember

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**Nate Nehring**  
Councilmember

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**Jared Mead**  
Councilmember

cc: Rep. Laurie Jenkins, Speaker of the House  
Sen. Andy Billig, Majority Leader  
Rep. JT Wilcox, House Minority Leader  
Sen. John Braun, Senate Minority Leader  
Snohomish County Delegation