

Peter B. Lewis, Mayor

25 West Main Street * Auburn WA 98001-4998 * www.auburnwa.gov * 253-931-3000

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Dave Reichert
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reichert:

On behalf of the City of Auburn, I respectfully request that \$4.6 million be included for the Right of Way Acquisition to complete the M Street Grade Separation project under the Surface Transportation Reauthorization High Priority Project Program.

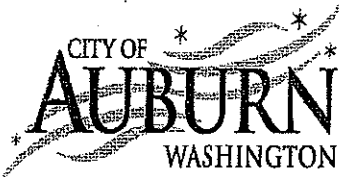
The \$4.6 million will complete the right-of-way acquisition and will allow the City to certify the necessary right-of-way. The project includes lowering M St SE below the existing BNSF Stampede Pass railroad, constructing a new railroad bridge and retaining walls, widening the roadway from 2 to 5 lanes with a center turn lane, improving the signal at M St SE and 4th St SE (southerly approach to the grade separation), and installing signal interconnection, curbs, gutters, storm-water facilities, sidewalks and bike lanes. The primary purpose of the underpass is to remove the at-grade conflict between primary rail activities and heavy vehicular traffic on M Street SE. Rail and road efficiency will be significantly improved, safety of the at-grade crossing will be improved for both pedestrians and motorists, and air quality will be enhanced as a result of this project.

The benefits of the project will improve emergency vehicle access, make safety improvements through reducing neighborhood cut-through traffic on residential streets, provide safe pedestrian connections, ensuring the safe crossing of 53 daily school bus crossings, improve air quality through reducing emissions from vehicles waiting to cross and provide more than 784 new jobs in the City of Auburn furthering economic recovery in this region.

The City of Auburn is committed to continually provide opportunities for interested parties to participate in the transportation planning process for the M Street SE Grade Separation Project, and to engage all members of the community in a meaningful public information sharing process. Some of the public participation highlights of the project include:

- Open houses introducing city staff, elected officials, and key personnel to the community;
- Development of a project web site;
- Newsletters and information brochures;
- Community and government partners in small group meetings;
- Public meetings at key stages in the process;
- Conduct a public hearing when the draft environmental documents are published

AUBURN * MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED



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The City of Auburn has secured \$8.3 million so far for the M Street Grade Separation, including \$2.2 million from the City and guaranteed \$6 million from the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board State Funds along with \$122,000 from the Federal Government. The City anticipates another \$14.1 million to complete the project, including the attached funding request; an additional \$3.2 million from the City of Auburn; \$1.1 from BNSF; \$1.5 from the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma; \$1.7 from a Federal STP grant and \$2.0 million from TIB.

We are proud of the commitment of the city of Auburn and the partnerships we have formed to complete this project and we appreciate your support and the support of the Federal Government to the City of Auburn. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Please feel free to contact me at (253) 931-3041 or plewis@auburnwa.gov.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Lewis", written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Peter B. Lewis
Mayor

05/04/2009 MON 16:15 FAX

002/002

Apr 30 2009 12:13PM Congressman Dave Reichert 206-275-3437

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

CONGRESSIONAL SITE VISIT CERTIFICATION

In the interests of accountability and transparency, we require that either the Congressman or a member of the Congressman's professional staff visit each project site requesting federal funding. This will enable our office to more thoroughly assess the merits of each project and ensure that limited taxpayer funds are invested wisely.

Upon completion of the congressional site visit, please complete this form and have a representative from the organization (not a representative from a lobbying firm) sign it. The Congressional Staff Member visiting the site will be responsible for collecting the form at the time of the visit.

I hereby certify that on _____, 2009 Congressman Dave Reichert/a professional staff member from Congressman Dave Reichert's office visited our organization/project for the purposes of reviewing our request for federal funding.

PROJECT NAME: M Street

DATE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: April 2, 2009

NAME OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Carolyn Robertson

TITLE OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Govt. Relation's Mgr.

LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: City of Auburn

LEGAL ADDRESS OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: 25 West Main Street, Auburn WA 98001

SIGNATURE: *Carolyn Robertson* DATE: 4/2/09

MEMBER/CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER: Thomas Yang

SIGNATURE: *Thomas Yang* DATE: 5.7.09