June 14, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

We, the undersigned, are all members of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington State (ACEC-WA) and are also many of the consulting engineering firms which are making multimodal transportation a reality for the people and future generations of the Greater Puget Sound Region. We are writing you to urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to execute a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) under the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program with Sound Transit for its Lynnwood Link light rail extension in the central Puget Sound.

This project is an indispensable component in the successful completion of Sound Transit’s infrastructure expansion program. However, for this project to move forward as planned, the Federal share, which will be supplementing the Local share, is a crucial and key element. This is especially true this early in the full system buildout. Without this investment, there could well be a cascading, domino effect that will not only cause harm to the Lynnwood Link project, but also to subsequent projects as well.

At the same time, we and Sound Transit have demonstrated the expertise and track record to deliver this 8.5 mile light rail extension. Notably, this public-private partnership has delivered 19 miles of light rail with FFGA funding under the guidance of FTA. We urge you to continue this legacy and complete the CIG process for Lynnwood Link by executing the grant.

We are also ready, willing and able. As an industry and as an agency, we, together have the technical ability and capacity to deliver on the transit expansion funded and approved by the voters. The citizens of Puget Sound have committed their hard-earned tax revenues to implement the system. We, in private industry, are anxious to continue delivering these projects and Sound Transit is poised to lead the effort. The truth in this statement is demonstrably shown by the fact that Sound Transit’s 116-mile light rail system expansion is well underway, with 22 miles of light rail in operation, 18 miles under construction, 22 miles in final design and 54 miles in early planning.

The agency has embraced the public / private project delivery model. With Lynnwood, the dollars spent on this $3.2 billion project are generating economic benefits in this region and across the country through private sector contracts for planning, design, engineering, vehicles and construction. It certainly means a great deal to our firms and to the over 7,000 employees we, and the other ACEC-WA member firms, employ in Washington State. We hope the Administration will extend another federal partnership with the agency to complete this important infrastructure investment.
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We urge you to execute the CIG Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for Lynnwood Link this year. Should you wish to make any inquiries regarding this letter, our point of contact is Van Collins, President/CEO, ACEC of Washington, vcollins@acec-wa.org, (425) 453-6655: office, (253) 906-5158: cell.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Van A. Collins
Van A. Collins

Ade Bright, PE, SE
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Dustin Ong, PE
President

William M. De La Vergne, PE
President

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Margaret Clancy, PWS
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Northwest Regional Director
June 14, 2018

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