RESOLUTION NO. 19-0447


WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has applied for a federal INFRA grant with the U.S. Department of Transportation in an amount of over $100 million; and

WHEREAS, WSDOT seeks this grant in order to extend SR 167 along the City’s south and west boundaries into the Port of Tacoma, thereby completing the long-planned SR 167 and 509 transportation corridors; to extend SR 509; and improve I-5 in order to improve connections to the Port of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, these proposed transportation improvements will not only benefit citizens of Washington, but also residents of Edgewood, because they will reduce congestion, increase mobility between manufacturing centers and distribution hubs and allow for faster and more efficient freight movement to and from the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, operating jointly as the Northwest Seaport Alliance; and

WHEREAS, there are additional benefits to these transportation improvements, as described in the letter attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edgewood desires to assist WSDOT’s efforts in obtaining this grant by sending a letter of support to Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation for the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the proposed letter (Exhibit A) during the regular Council meeting of February 12, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Authorization. The City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign the letter attached hereto as Exhibit A, addressed to the Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution will take effect immediately upon passage by the City Council.

ADOPTED THIS 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019
ATTEST:

Rachel Pitzel, City Clerk

Daryl Eiding, Mayor
Exhibit A
INFRA Gateway Support Letter
February 12, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my city's support for the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) application for a U.S. Department of Transportation INFRA grant. The Puget Sound Gateway Program will complete the long-planned State Route 167 and 509 corridors, two critical final connections on the Designated National Highway Freight Network serving a major North American gateway for international trade.

The Puget Sound Gateway Program will extend SR 167 along our city’s south and west boundaries into the Port of Tacoma, and will extend SR 509 and improve Interstate 5 allowing for improved connections to the Port of Seattle. The new portions of SR 509 and SR 167 will reduce congestion on local streets and adjacent state routes, increase mobility between manufacturing centers and distribution hubs, and allow for faster and more efficient freight movement to and from the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, operating jointly as the Northwest Seaport Alliance.

Washington State's economy, including the vast agricultural areas of Central and Eastern Washington, is critically dependent on the efficient and predictable movement of freight on its roadways. The Northwest Seaport Alliance is the fourth largest gateway in North America, responsible for 48,000 jobs and more than $4 billion in economic activity. The nearby cities of Kent, Sumner and Puyallup are home to the second-largest distribution center complexes on the West Coast and the fourth-largest in the country. The completion of SR 167 through the Puget Sound Gateway Program gives our city an opportunity to join this distribution center.

The program also includes a new south access to Sea-Tac International Airport, improving access to the third largest airport for international trade on the West Coast and the fastest growing in the United States. Completing SR 509 and SR 167 is essential for our state and nation to remain competitive with other Pacific Rim countries.
Over 94 percent of the project is funded through state gas tax, local contributions, and user revenues from tolls. An INFRA grant, at six percent of the project costs, would complete the funding to construct these two final freight connections which support $73 billion in international trade serving Northern Tier states, the Pacific Northwest, and the Puget Sound region. I strongly support WSDOT’s INFRA grant application for the Puget Sound Gateway Program and encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor Daryl Eidinger
City of Edgewood, Washington