



**GREAT
NORTHERN**

CORRIDOR COALITION

The Mission of the Great Northern Corridor Coalition is to:

"Promote a premier multi-state multimodal corridor by acting collectively to promote public policy, research, and multimodal infrastructure development that expands commerce and enhances safety on the corridor".

P.O. Box 1255 Williston, North Dakota 58802 (360) 567-7521

Members:

Idaho Transportation
Department

Minnesota DOT

Montana DOT

North Dakota DOT

Oregon DOT

Washington State
DOT

Wisconsin DOT

Federal Highways
Administration

BNSF Railway

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

Port of Everett

Port of Seattle

Port of Tacoma

Port of Grays Harbor

Port of Vancouver,
USA

Port of Portland, OR

Port of Pasco

Port of Quincy

WA Public Ports
Association

Port of Northern
Montana

City of Spokane
Valley

City of Connell

City of Moorhead

July 18, 2018

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

Subject: City of Union Gap, WA 2018 BUILD Application – Regional Beltway Connector and Main Street Revitalization

Dear Secretary Chao,

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Great Northern Corridor Coalition's support for the City of Union Gap, Washington to secure federal funding for the above referenced BUILD grant application that constructs roadway infrastructure to enhance the flow of traffic in the rapidly growing Yakima Valley Region and other safety and community livability improvements in the City of Union Gap, Washington.

The Great Northern Corridor Coalition is a Multi-State, Multimodal Coalition which represents 8 States, 162 Counties and over 38 Million Americans. With the assistance of two FHWA Multi-State Corridor Operations and Management grants and our member contributions, we have been collaborating for several years to promote regional cooperation around Safety, Mobility, Economic Development and Project Prioritization and Support across the Great Northern Corridor.

Our collaboration with Coalition Members has helped to create a collective identification and prioritization of corridor enhancing projects that contribute to the seamless movement of freight and people across our great country. We are indeed a linked system!

The Union Gap Regional Beltway Connector and Main Street Revitalization Project supports regional economic vitality by improving freight and passenger mobility, enhances community livability and leverages Federal Funding through a robust public private partnership.

The Great Northern Corridor is an east-west artery for commerce that is a vital link in the nation's supply chain for agriculture, energy

products, raw materials and finished goods that support major U.S. Industries and consumer markets in our 8 states and provides a vital link for global trade.

The underlying thread and primary focus of the Great Northern Corridor is the railroad and roadway infrastructure networks that connects the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest, and the City of Union Gap Project certainly plays an important role in maintaining the safety velocity and livability of the corridor.

The City of Union Gap's Regional Beltway Connector and Main Street Revitalization Project would add vital transportation mobility to one of our richest agricultural regions and to the Great Northern Corridor. This project supports the Coalition's vision for "a globally competitive, multi-state and multimodal freight corridor consisting of a seamless road and rail network that promotes economic growth for neighboring communities and accommodates the demand for safe, efficient and environmentally sound transportation services."

We thank you for the opportunity to support this important project and urge your consideration for the City of Union Gap's Regional Beltway Connector and Main Street Revitalization Project funding from the BUILD grant program.

Sincerely,



Curtis E. Shuck, Jr.

Executive Director

**Great Northern
Corridor Coalition**

P.O. Box 1255

Williston, North Dakota 58802

(360) 567-7521 / Mobile

www.greatnortherncorridor.org



**GREAT
NORTHERN**
CORRIDOR COALITION

CC: Dennis Henne - City of Union Gap, Washington
Colleen Weatherford, BNSF Railway Company