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7TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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Congress of the United States
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September 29, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to request your due consideration of the City of Seattle's application for funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Community Planning Grant. The City of Seattle is seeking funding to advance efforts to construct a lid over Interstate 5 (I-5) in central downtown Seattle.

In the 1960s, the construction of I-5 in downtown Seattle significantly reduced the connectivity of Seattle's distinct neighborhoods and prioritized automobile mobility. In 2020, the Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development completed an I-5 Lid Feasibility Study. The results indicated that the I-5 lid project is an opportunity to unlock a multitude of public benefits on up to 17 acres of new public land.

With funding from the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program, the City of Seattle will continue planning, technical studies and community outreach for the I-5 lid project. The City of Seattle has stated that the project will provide an opportunity to support the growing population and transform regional connectivity through transit-oriented development, safe streets, pollution reduction and economic opportunity. The project scope will include community engagement to ensure equitable and healthy community-driven improvements.

I urge you to give full and fair consideration to the City of Seattle's application for funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Community Planning Grant. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (206) 674-0040 if you have any questions about my support for this application.

Sincerely,



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress