

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write today in support of the Benton County application for FASTLANE 2016 funding for the 53rd Street overcrossing project. This project will correct existing transportation safety concerns and has been part of Benton County's Transportation System Plan for more than 30 years. If funded, this important project will improve freight mobility, daily operations, and safety for the driving public and railroad operators.

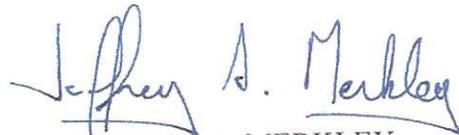
This long-standing project for Benton County will correct the existing transportation safety concerns related to the low clearance of the railroad trestle, along with frequent flooding and icy conditions resulting in road closure. SW 53rd Street is currently routed under the Union Pacific Railroad's Toledo line, however the trestle supporting the railroad bridge is located between two travel-lanes. The undercrossing frequently floods and ices over in the winter. These combined factors create a hazard to the driving public and the railroad operators. In addition, the undercrossing has a vertical clearance limit of 13'6", which prevents freight from traveling through this route. Completion of this project will reduce out of way travel times for freight, improved safety for the traveling public, and has the potential to positively impact the local economy through a more efficient and safe transfer of goods and services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,



RON WYDEN
United States Senator



JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator