

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



May 24, 2011

Mr. Victor M. Mendez, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) / I-5 Congestion Relief Action Plan

Dear Mr. Mendez,

We urge you to provide funding for the JBLM / I-5 Congestion Relief Plan submitted by Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC). This proposal includes strategies that will provide measurable benefits to those traveling this strategic national corridor, resulting in increased reliability and efficiency, travel time savings, and improved safety.

For the past several years, TRPC and its public and private sector partners have worked together to address growing I-5 congestion. We supported state funding of TRPC's I-5 Origin and Destination study and a state Transportation Budget that sets aside funds for vanpool options for JBLM. We have also sought state funding to develop an overall regional I-5 Mobility Strategy. The Thurston Region and TRPC have a successful track record of effective, collaborative transportation planning.

We appreciate the pragmatic approach taken in this Congestion Relief Action Plan, which intends to deploy low-cost, quick-turnaround strategies. This plan leverages a 20-year State Commute Trip Reduction law and significant investments in inter-regional transit service and vanpools. In addition to providing an incentive for travelers to switch from drive-alone travel to other more efficient forms of travel, this plan will help alleviate I-5 congestion. Implementation will also reduce per capita growth in vehicle miles traveled – a core objective of our state and regional greenhouse gas mitigation policies.

This project provides better options for more efficient travel in the short term, while recognizing that we need to make significant infrastructure investments on I-5 in the longer term. In this struggling economy, TRPC and regional partners have crafted a viable action plan that recognizes economic realities.

We encourage you to support the JBLM / I-5 Congestion Relief Action Plan as a funding priority for the *Transportation, Community, and Systems Preservation* program.

Sincerely,

SAM HUNT
State Representative
22nd Legislative District

CHRIS REYKDAL
State Representative
22nd Legislative District