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Brian.Ziegler@co.pierce.wa.us

May 24, 2011

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

Re: JBLM / I-5 Congestion Relief Action Plan

Dear Mr. Mendez:

Pierce County is pleased to support the JBLM / I-5 Congestion Relief Action Plan funding proposal submitted by Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC). This project supports many communities along I-5 by improving mobility in the vicinity of Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) with a series of quick-deployment strategies that enhance system efficiency.

Pierce County worked closely with TRPC, the City of Lakewood, JBLM, and many other partners to identify the investments needed to improve the crushing congestion experienced on a daily basis. Most of those are long-term strategies that will cost many hundreds of millions of dollars. While we continue to work on those long-term strategies we need to improve system reliability and safety today – we can't wait 10-20 years to relieve congestion. This Action Plan will provide that interim relief while we continue to work together on the larger system needs.

Pierce County looks forward to working with the established team of stakeholders in carrying out the system efficiency measures in the Action Plan that will improve I-5 mobility and safety.

Sincerely,


for Brian J. Ziegler, P.E.
Director

BJZ:JH:ljc

cc: File

JBLM05242011

