

August 19, 2010

Robert Mariner
Senior Policy Analyst
Surface Transportation Infrastructure Discretionary Grants for Capital Investments II
U.S. Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Mariner:

On behalf of the Puget Sound Regional Council, I am writing to urge consideration of the Tulalip Tribes' application for the TIGER II grant program for the I-5/116th Street NE Interchange Improvements.

The project will assist the Tulalip Tribes in addressing the serious safety deficiencies and congestion that take place on the Interstate 5 and 116th Street NE Interchange. The project is vital for east and west connectivity and will provide access to the Naval Support Complex north of Marysville. Project improvements will offer numerous benefits to pedestrians, motorists and freight by improving safety, increasing system efficiency and allowing for better traffic flow. The project will benefit all of Snohomish County by providing more economic development opportunities in the north end.

The project is consistent with the region's long-range metropolitan transportation plan, Transportation 2040, and is consistent with the region's long-range growth strategy included in VISION 2040. If the 116th Street NE Interchange project is selected for funding, PSRC will work with the Tulalip Tribes to readily amend the new funding into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program.

Sincerely,



Bob Drewel, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council