



December 12, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the membership of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), I am writing to express my support for the Industrial Rail Corridor (IRC) FASTLANE project submitted by the Port of Longview. PNWA is a regional trade association whose 135 members support projects which enhance the Northwest economy and our nation's competitive position in world markets.

Located in a rural, economically distressed area of Washington State with nearly 8 percent unemployment, supporting and expanding the Port of Longview's operations is an integral part of the region's economic strategy. This project will create additional employment opportunities for residents, smooth the movement of freight traffic through the region, and decrease the amount of potentially dangerous at-grade rail crossings in the community.

The Port's IRC project consists of relocating the original IRC north to accommodate additional through tracks and sidings with clear lengths of 8,500 feet and greater. This increased rail access will provide optimal staging for current customers and future tenants on redeveloped, underutilized berths. Furthermore, these improvements set the stage for the future Barlow Point Terminals programmed for redevelopment over the next five years.

I hope you will strongly consider selecting this project to receive funding through the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

Kristin Meira

Kristin Meira
Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association