



March 1, 2019

Washington State Office
901 5th Avenue
Suite 1520
Seattle, Washington 98164

National Office
101 Montgomery Street
Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94104

Creating parks and
protecting land for people
tpl.org

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf The Trust for Public Land of the Wenatchee Valley in Washington State, I express my strong support for the City of Wenatchee's application for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant. The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit that protects land and builds parks for people, and we wholeheartedly believe this grant, if provided, will significantly advance our regional economic opportunities for decades to come.

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. We believe that everyone, in every neighborhood, in every city in America deserves a high-quality park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home. Founded in 1972, The Trust for Public Land has worked with communities to create more than 5,000 special places and protected more than 3 million acres across the country. As part of our work in the State of Washington, we work closely with cities in the Wenatchee Valley on projects to ensure healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

The Wenatchee Valley is located in North Central Washington State, a rural area comprised of about 87% government owned land. Located 150 miles east of Seattle in Central Washington, it is at the crossroads of highways going east to Spokane, west to Seattle, north to British Columbia, and south to Yakima and the Tri-Cities. The City of Wenatchee serves as a key transportation hub even though it is 40 miles from the nearest interstate.

The Apple Capital Loop project is the result of years of planning by regional jurisdictions and broad community engagement in the Wenatchee Valley. One key challenge is limited property for economic development. The five project segments will improve safety, mobility, system reliability, freight mobility and congestion relief for the citizens and businesses of Central Washington. At completion, it also will allow much needed investments in housing, retail, and industrial development by bringing infrastructure to vacant and fire damaged lands throughout our community.

This INFRA grant will be combined with more than \$100 million of other local public and private funding to complete the Apple Capital Loop. It will leverage more than \$200 million of investments by our agricultural sector in production, storage and transportation. The project will create new investment opportunities for business and housing by accessing vacant lands. The Apple Capital Loop project will create significant new opportunities for continued economic growth by opening access to develop properties and potentially bring investments of over \$500 million to our region. We may be rural in location, but our industries, innovations and products touch the nation and world.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. This INFRA Grant will significantly advance the health, safety and economic welfare of this community for decades to come. This project provides opportunities to highlight the ability of a region to come together and use federal, state and local funding in an efficient and effective manner.

We reiterate our strong support of this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 587-2447 or david.patton@tpl.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Patton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Patton
State Director, Washington and Oregon