



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 5, 2017

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

RE: Support for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the citizens and businesses of the Wenatchee Valley in Washington State, I ask for your support for the City of Wenatchee's application for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant.

The Wenatchee Valley is a rural area, 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 is a significant crew change and switching station for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline that connects Chicago with the Northwest Ports. The Valley serves as a critical transportation hub, yet is more than 40 miles from the nearest Interstate Freeway.

The community is working together to build on its core strengths in agriculture, the Columbia River hydropower system, and its unique location at the hub of both highway and rail transportation to diversify its economy. The Valley is proud to be the Apple Capital of the world but recognizes that the current transportation system is a crucial impediment to realizing the potential.

The Apple Capital Loop project is the result of years of planning by regional jurisdictions and broad community engagement in the Wenatchee Valley. The five project segments will improve safety, mobility, system reliability, freight movement and congestion relief for the citizens and businesses of Central Washington. A project component will re-connect the downtown area with the formerly industrial waterfront safely and efficiently by eliminating dangerous rail crossings that impede economic growth. Other elements will significantly improve the efficiency and reliability of our innovative LINK transit system that serves the community.

Notably, the Apple Capital Loop will allow for much-needed investments in housing, retail, and industrial development by bringing infrastructure to vacant and fire damaged lands throughout the community.

Recent events underscore the importance of moving quickly to implement this project. The Wenatchee Valley is surrounded by publicly owned forest lands, and, in 2014 and 2015, experienced the worst wildfires in history. The Sleepy Hollow fires, which burned more than 30 acres inside the City of Wenatchee core, showed the current transportation system is not suitable for responding to this level of emergency, or the need to evacuate citizens. Unfortunately, due to wood fuel buildup on lands adjacent to the urban area, the likelihood of future fires remains high.

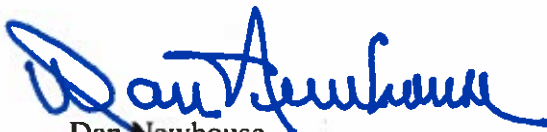
The Apple Capital Loop will enhance the ability to respond to future emergencies and, if necessary, safely evacuate citizens, particularly through the Confluence Parkway bypass segment.

This INFRA grant will be combined with more than \$100 million of 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 both fire damaged and vacant lands.

This project offers our region, state, federal funders and private investors opportunities to realize innovations in infrastructure, permitting and leverage. It opens developable properties with adopted plans in place that have the potential to bring over \$500 million in reinvestment in our region.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



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VICE-CHAIR
NUCLEAR CLEANUP CAUCUS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 14, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Wenatchee's application for a U.S. Department of Transportation INFRA grant. The Apple Capital Loop project will significantly advance Wenatchee's regional economic opportunities for decades to come. The Wenatchee Valley is home to the regional commercial airport, Pangborn Memorial Airport, and is a major crew change and switching station for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline that connects Chicago with the northwest ports.

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

Recent wildfires have underscored the importance of this project. The Wenatchee Valley, surrounded by publicly-owned forests, experienced extreme wildfires in 2014 and 2015. The Sleepy Hollow fires jumped into the core of the City and burned more than 30 acres within the urban core. This project will enhance the City's ability to respond to future emergencies and safely evacuate citizens by providing an additional evacuation route out of the north end of the city.

I strongly support the City of Wenatchee's INFRA grant application for the Apple Capital Loop project and encourage you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress
402 EAST YAKIMA AVENUE, SUITE 445
YAKIMA, WA 98901
OFFICE (509) 452-3243



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 4, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am once again writing to express my support for the Apple Capital Loop INFRA grant application submitted by the City of Wenatchee. Completion of the Apple Capital Loop project would provide improved freight access, improved mobility and safety of the general public, and economic development opportunities for the Wenatchee Valley and surrounding region.

The Wenatchee Valley is the center of the world's apple industry; between 200 and 400 refrigerated fruit trucks move in and out of the region every day. As one of only eight metropolitan areas in the United States not served by the 4-lane Interstate Highway system, investments like the Apple Capital Loop are critical to maintaining and improving freight access and capacity in and out of the Wenatchee Valley. It will also facilitate much needed investments in housing, retail, and industrial development by bringing infrastructure to vacant lands in northern Douglas County.

The Apple Capital Loop will also improve mobility and safety for everyone in the valley. The Wenatchee Valley is surrounded by publicly owned forests that pose significant wildfire danger to residents every summer. The City of Wenatchee experienced extreme fires that burned 30 homes and several industrial buildings as recently as 2015. Completion of the project would enhance emergency response and evacuation routes for the entire valley.

As the project is the result of years of planning by local jurisdictions with broad community engagement and support, I urge your full and fair consideration of the City of Wenatchee's INFRA application.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of our constituents in Washington's 8th and 4th Congressional Districts, we respectfully request support for the application submitted by the City of Wenatchee to the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant Program. Completing Wenatchee's Apple Capital Loop Project is a vital investment for North Central Washington's economic sustainability and community stability.

The Wenatchee Valley is a key transportation hub at the crossroads of highways going east to Spokane, west to Seattle, north to British Columbia, and south to Yakima and the Tri-Cities. It is the heart of Washington, settled in a rural part of the state East of the Cascade Mountains. The nearest Interstate Highway is 40 miles away. The 11-mile Apple Capital loop carries more than 100,000 vehicles each day. Freight, businesses, commuters, transit, emergency services, residents and visitors must travel on it.

The Apple Capital Loop project is the result of years of planning by local, state and regional jurisdictions including the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Yakama Nations. The Apple Capital Loop supports the various layers of this region's economy by bringing together vital, interconnected projects that comprise the backbone of our regional transportation network, and the local component of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN). The project has broad support throughout the communities in the area as evidenced by investments of more than \$100 million over the past decade through private and public partners. This multi-modal network of projects will yield improved safety, system reliability, and congestion relief coordinated with deployment of a modernized, rapid-charge battery electric commuter transit system with faster speed and increased frequency. At completion, it also will allow much-needed investment in housing, retail, and industrial development by bringing additional infrastructure to the area. It will leverage more than \$200 million in investments by our agricultural sector in production, storage, and transportation.

Investing in the Apple Capital loop will shore up a functioning backbone to Wenatchee's transportation system. Access to this system is not only important in trade and retail, but to building and strengthening the community. Wenatchee has a growing population, and in the last decade the municipality has invested in bike lanes, green spaces like the loop trail by nearby Columbia River, and other ways to encourage outdoor activity for families in the area. The Apple Capital Loop is a vital part of this growth; it eliminates the risk of pedestrian-train accidents in a high trespass location with a pedestrian overpass.

This pedestrian option also allows community members without reliable transportation a way to access the loop trail and neighboring East Wenatchee.

The impacts of climate change and recent wildfire events underscore the important safety element to implementing this project. The Wenatchee Valley, surrounded by publicly owned forestlands, experienced extreme wildfires in 2014 and 2015 including one event that reached the city's urban core. These events impact the entire region but especially our most vulnerable populations which are more susceptible to wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters. Without investments in the Apple Capital Loop, Wenatchee will continue to only have one way in and out of the north end of the city. During the last fire evacuation efforts, it became alarmingly evident to my constituents that we must enhance our ability to respond to future emergencies and safely evacuate citizens.

The Apple Capital Loop project will create significant new opportunities for continued economic growth by opening access to development, potentially bringing investments of over \$500 million to this region. As the most trade-dependent state in the nation, this project will increase infrastructure connectivity and position our state to continue to grow exports. Preserving the strong commerce connections of the state will only strengthen our relations abroad and bring economic prosperity back to the state and nation.

This INFRA Grant will significantly advance the safety and economic welfare of this community for decades to come. The Apple Capital Loop project provides an opportunity to highlight the ability of an area like the Wenatchee Valley to come together and use federal, state, local, and private funding in an efficient and effective manner.

As we work collectively to build our infrastructure back better than it was before, we encourage you to consider investing in the Apple Capital Loop. This pivotal project will impact the commerce, community, small businesses of the rural municipal in Washington state. We are pleased to support completing the Apple Capital Loop and thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Kim Schrier, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Dan Newhouse
MEMBER OF CONGRESS