



1414 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
OFFICE (202) 225-5816
FAX (202) 225-3251

VICE-CHAIR
NUCLEAR CLEANUP CAUCUS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 22, 2021

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for US 97/Jones Rd - Intersection Improvements in surface transportation reauthorization legislation. The project sponsor for this project is the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the project is located at US 97/Jones Road intersection, approximately one mile north of Wapato, WA, 98951.

The funding is designated for the Jones Road Intersection on US 97, which has experienced a history of vehicle and pedestrian collisions. It is also difficult for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross the high-speed US 97. This project will construct a two-lane roundabout to reduce conflicts and the risk of collisions for all four modes. This project is on the Yakama Nation Reservation and will provide safety benefits for underserved populations.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits WSDOT continues to partner with the Yakama Nation and the Tribal Traffic Safety Committee to provide the community information regarding the safety improvements planned along the US 97 corridor including at Jones Road. WSDOT worked closely with the Yakama Nation to engage the community about the improvements at several events pre-COVID-19 including Yakama Nation TERO Career Fair, MESA-CON, Yakama Nation Treaty Day Parade, City of Toppenish Night Out, Yakama Nation Backpack Giveaway. Community engagement efforts have continued virtually during the pandemic including a virtual open house in January and February 2021 and virtual presentations to the Toppenish City Council. WSDOT will continue to work with Yakama Nation to engage the community about the project.

A project webpage is available for this project: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us97/toppenishunion-gap/home>.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress