



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

April 22, 2021

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:


I am requesting funding for US Highway 12 Phase 8 Final Design and Right of Way Acquisition in surface transportation reauthorization legislation. The project sponsor for this project is the Port of Walla Walla and the project is located at Wallula to Nine Mile Hill, Touchet, WA, Walla Walla County.

The funding is designated for Washington State Department of Transportation and the US Hwy 12 Coalition, which have worked together since 2003 to widen US 12 from two to four lanes from the Snake River (near Burbank) to Walla Walla. Phase 8, Wallula to Nine mile, will complete the project by creating approximately 10 miles of new four-lane divided highway between Packaging Corporation of America and Nine Mile Hill. Phase 8 of Hwy 12 is the most dangerous section of Hwy 12.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits for the residents, businesses, and traveling public through improved safety, capacity, and mobility. In addition, the regional transportation system between the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla will better support the agriculture, the wine industry, and other freight traffic critical to Eastern Washington's economic vitality. Funding for this project will complete Final Design and Right of Way acquisition for Phase 8 and make the project completely shovel ready for the final construction phase.

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

Sincerely,



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress