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CHAIRMAN  
CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

April 27, 2022

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER  
DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Yakima County in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Yakima County, located at 128 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901. The proposed project is located in Yakima County, Washington.

The City of Yakima is the largest city within County lines and has a population of slightly less than 100,000 with no other city or town of comparable size. Agriculture has been the staple of the economy and most of the county's population is concentrated along the rivers, largely because irrigation was critical to the success of the communities and the farmers who settled in this area. Within Yakima County, the project is located in what is regionally referred to as the "Upper Valley", between The City of Yakima and Terraces Heights (see figure 2). The City of Yakima had a population of approximately 94,000 and ranks in the upper quartile of the Diversity Index. Terrace Heights is unincorporated and as of July 1, 2017, had a population of approximately 7,700 and, much like the City of Yakima, ranks in the upper quartile of the Diversity Index. Both the City of Yakima and Terraces Heights have been classified by the US Census Bureau as "Urban Areas" and the proposed project falls within the most densely populated areas of both.

The funding would be used for Partnering with the City of Yakima, WSDOT, and FHWA, Yakima County has begun a multi-jurisdictional project, known as the East-West Corridor to establish a new alternate connection between Terrace Heights, the City of Yakima & I-82. Due to the size, the County's portion of the project has been broken down into 3 phases. Phase 1, 3, and portions of 2 (design, ROW) have been funded through a variety of local and state funding opportunities, however, phase 2 construction remains partially unfunded.

Phase 1, went into construction in 2019 and Begins at the intersection of Terrace Heights Dr. & Butterfield Rd. Butterfield Rd. is being reconstructed to a 3-lane roadway section with 14ft shared-use lanes and separated pedestrian facilities, better suiting the surrounding land use & ensuring multiple modes of transportation are accommodated. At the north end of Butterfield Rd, a 4-way roundabout will be constructed connecting the new corridor to the existing roadway system. West of the roundabout is the beginning of phase 2. A new 4-lane section will be constructed with 14ft shared-use lanes, and a separated multi-use pathway. Phase 3 will be the two 2 bridge structures spanning the Yakima River and I-82 and a series of new ramps and distributed roadways connecting the new corridor to I-82. This will increase capacity, allowing for the free flow of traffic during peak hours & reducing travel times and severity of traffic accidents. West of the bridges, the project will continue to the project terminates in the City of Yakima tying into the city's existing H St. When completed, the project will alleviate congestion at the adjacent Yakima Ave/I-82 interchange, provide a direct connection for freight and cargo to industrial areas on both sides of the river, provide an alternative route for commuter traffic, & ensure safe multi-modal transportation options.

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

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress