

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Kittitas County I-90 Widening – Kittitas County, WA, project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Kittitas County, located at the Kittitas County Courthouse 205 W 5th Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926-2887.

This project would fund planning activities concerning potential solutions to congestion on this critical east-west corridor. Ultimately, the Kittitas County I-90 Widening project would aim to alleviate this congestion and make for a safer I-90 for Kittitas County's communities, residents, and visitors. As an initial step, a corridor feasibility study has been developed with associated recommendations. Funding of \$5,000,000 will develop the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL), performing a deeper dive into the environmental evaluation and development of environmental documentation, which will go towards mitigating any potential environmental impacts that may result from future work done on the identified stretch of I-90 within Kittitas County. This is for the portion of I-90 in Kittitas County, WA between milepost 71 and milepost 85. Traffic impacts from vehicles attempting to bypass long backups on I-90 continue to be a concern expressed by the community. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because there is interest in providing needed capacity on I-90 to allow traffic to remain on the interstate, promoting efficient movement of vehicles, freight and emergency vehicles.

This project is on the WSDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). The goal of the project is to reduce traffic accidents, improve circulation, and protect public lands by improving infrastructure on a dangerous portion of I-90 between Easton, WA and Cle Elum, WA.

Washington's critical east-west I-90 Corridor connects Puget Sound's deep-water ports, large population centers, and retail and service businesses with educational, agricultural, and recreational areas in central and eastern Washington. In addition, I-90 provides emergency access for wildfire crews and medical services, which are virtually unavailable between North Bend and Ellensburg. In 2009, the state launched an ambitious project to address numerous threats to the safety and reliability on Snoqualmie Pass. The I-90 East project has increased traffic efficiency but only for a brief stretch of the road. Traffic cruising along in three lanes is compressed to two lanes shortly after crossing the summit.

Daily traffic on Snoqualmie Pass averages 22,400 passenger vehicles and 4,600 freight vehicles. Traffic volumes can rise to more than 58,000 vehicles on weekends and holidays. According to

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), each year, 10 million freight trucks carrying \$500 billion worth of interstate, import, and export goods move through Snoqualmie Pass on Interstate 90. The traffic volume has increased by over 25 percent over the last five years and is predicted to continue to increase every year moving forward.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 133(b)(2) of title 23, United States Code, as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Schrier".

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress