



February 25, 2026

The Honorable Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Planning Grant Application
City of Richland, Washington
State Route 240 Corridor Widening and Intersection Enhancement Engineering**

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to strongly support the City of Richland, Washington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Planning Grant Program for the State Route 240 Corridor Widening and Intersection Enhancement Engineering Project.

State Route 240 is a vital regional transportation route serving the City of Richland and the wider Tri-Cities area. The corridor faces ongoing congestion, operational issues, and safety problems at several intersections, including Hagen Road, Kingsgate Way, Beardsley Road, Logston Boulevard, Twin Bridges Road, and Snively Road. These intersections are key access points for residents, commuters, freight, and emergency services, and their performance directly impacts regional mobility and economic activity.

The proposed BUILD-funded planning effort will advance corridor-wide engineering and pre-construction activities to address these challenges in a coordinated, strategic manner. By developing engineering plans, evaluating improvement alternatives, and preparing implementation-ready concepts, this project will position SR-240 for future construction funding while reducing risk and improving cost certainty.

The City of Richland has shown a strong dedication to transportation planning and infrastructure development along the SR 240 corridor. This project aligns with the BUILD program's goals of enhancing safety, mobility, community connectivity, economic competitiveness, and maintaining a state of good repair, all while building on previous investments and regional partnerships. The city's collaboration with state and regional transportation agencies further boosts the project's preparedness and long-term value.

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of advancing this planning effort to ensure that future SR 240 improvements are well-designed, cost-effective, and responsive to community needs. We fully support the City of Richland's request for BUILD

Planning Grant funding and believe this project represents a wise and impactful federal investment.



Matt Murphy
Government and Regional Affairs Director
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce
509.491.3234
Matt.murphy@tricityregionalchamber.com