



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 Grant Application
City of Richland, Washington
State Route 240 & Aaron Drive Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express strong support for the City of Richland, Washington's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's **FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program** for the **State Route 240 & Aaron Drive Reconstruction Project**.

State Route 240 is a vital regional transportation corridor serving the City of Richland and the greater Tri-Cities area. The intersection of SR-240 and Aaron Drive faces recurring congestion, operational issues, and safety concerns due to high traffic volumes and its importance as a key access point for residents, employees, and freight. The proposed reconstruction project aims to modernize this intersection, enhance safety for all users, and improve long-term corridor reliability.

The City of Richland has shown a strong dedication to improving transportation infrastructure through previous investments and careful planning along the SR 240 corridor. This project builds on those efforts by advancing a comprehensive reconstruction that will enhance traffic flow, reduce crash risk, and support efficient movement of people and goods. The project aligns closely with the BUILD program's primary objectives, including improving safety, mobility, economic competitiveness, and maintaining the infrastructure in good condition.

Importantly, the City of Richland has shown the technical capacity and readiness necessary to successfully deliver this project. The City's coordination with state and regional transportation partners, combined with its experience administering federally funded infrastructure projects, provides confidence that BUILD funds will be managed responsibly and used to achieve measurable outcomes.

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce recognizes the regional significance of the SR-240 & Aaron Drive Reconstruction Project and its importance to community connectivity, economic

vitality, and transportation safety. We fully support the City of Richland's request for BUILD funding and believe this project represents a strong candidate for federal investment.

Thank you for considering this important application. Feel free to contact Matt Murphy at 509-491-3234 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Murphy
Government and Regional Affairs Director
Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce
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