



**Snohomish County**

**Public Works**

July 12, 2018

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www.snoco.org

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Dave Somers**  
*County Executive*

Dear Secretary Chao:

Snohomish County Department of Public Works is respectfully submitting a 2018 BUILD application for Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement project (Snohomish County, WA).

The proposed bridge will replace the current bridge which provides direct access to the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the Mountain Loop Highway in east Snohomish County, WA. In addition to recreation and tourism, this is a key through-route for transport of construction resources including aggregates, sand, gravel and timber resources critical to the Puget Sound Region via a T-2 freight route.

Conservatively, we estimate over \$864 Million in economic benefit in the Puget Sound area has been carried over the bridge by just one quarry in the last decade. The economic benefits will extend well into the future because the replacement bridge will be designed to have a life span of 80 years.

The current bridge was constructed in 1934 and has been rated structurally deficient and fracture critical. The existing bridge is not wide enough for construction trucks and large vehicles to fit concurrently and one must wait at the end of the bridge while the other large vehicle passes in the opposite direction. This is particularly problematic because the bridge is used by heavy trucks and school buses.

If this bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed six to seven months of the year due to the snow and was only built to minimal forest service standards. This detour would have impacts at both the local and the regional level. If not replaced, the poor condition of the Granite Falls Bridge #102 will threaten future transportation network efficiency, mobility of goods, accessibility and mobility of people, and economic growth.

If awarded, Snohomish County will be the sole recipient of this grant. Nonetheless, we have the support of multiple local and state agencies including the Washington State Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Regional Council, the US Forest Service, and the City of Granite Falls to name a few. We respectfully submit this application for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Thomsen, P.E., Director  
Snohomish County Public Works