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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4706

OFFICES:

1429 LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5918

950 PACIFIC AVENUE  
SUITE 1230  
TACOMA, WA 98402  
(253) 272-3515

345 6TH STREET  
SUITE 500  
BREMERTON, WA 98337  
(360) 373-9725

[www.kilmer.house.gov](http://www.kilmer.house.gov)

April 14, 2014

Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

RE: TIGER Letter of Support: Gorst Transportation Corridor Planning Study

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to support the City of Bremerton's TIGER Grant application for corridor transportation planning in the Gorst area of Kitsap County, Washington. Traffic in the Gorst area is exceeding the capacity of the system during the morning and evening commutes, causing significant travel delays for workers and visitors. This critical transportation corridor in the heart of my District links Mason and Kitsap Counties with Interstate 5 and is at the junction of State Route-16 and State Route-3. This corridor is also a primary access route for commuters and visitors using the Washington State Ferry System out of Bremerton.

Kitsap County is the proud home of Naval Base Kitsap, which employs more than 13,500 military, 13,700 civilian, and 7,500 contractor personnel. The military presence in Kitsap County accounts for a combined payroll of over \$1.5 billion per year and provides needed stability to the regional economy. In addition to linking the cities within Kitsap County to Mason and Pierce counties, the Gorst Corridor provides access for service members and civilian employees to the tenet commands of Naval Base Kitsap, which are located throughout Kitsap County.

The Gorst Corridor also serves as the gateway to the South Kitsap Industrial Area (SKIA), which is one of only eight designated Manufacturing/Industrial Centers in the Central Puget Sound region. This important regional designation is conferred by the Puget Sound Regional Council. SKIA is expected to be home to 10,000 additional jobs within the next 20 years and is poised to be a future home for military contractors, service providers, and other industrial employers.

This planning effort is strongly supported by the WA State Legislature as well as local municipalities. Last year, a \$500,000 planning effort was funded by the State of Washington to improve the State Route-3/State Route-304 interchange serving Naval Base Kitsap and the City of Bremerton. In addition, several local agencies (Kitsap Transit; City of Port Orchard; City of Bremerton; Port of Bremerton; Kitsap County) and the Washington State Department of Transportation recently collaborated to provide the necessary grant match on a \$454,000 earlier phase planning study of the Gorst Corridor funded through the Puget Sound Regional Council. In total, this partnership provided \$54,000 in matching funds to ensure the study effort could go forward.

This TIGER planning grant will take the output of the study efforts listed above and complete an Interchange Justification Report, which will provide the foundational basis for the final NEPA work. Moreover, this funding will continue the momentum towards funding infrastructure that is critical to Washington State's regional economy and to maintaining our national military readiness. I appreciate your full and fair consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Dacca in my Bremerton Office at (360) 373-9725 or at [Joe.Dacca@mail.house.gov](mailto:Joe.Dacca@mail.house.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Kilmer", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress