



Washington State Legislature

February 23, 2022

Senator Marko Liias
House Transportation Committee Chair

Rep. Jake Fey
House Transportation Committee Chair

Senator Curtis King
Senate Transportation Committee Ranking
Member

Rep. Andrew Barkis
House Transportation Committee Ranking
Member

Chairmen Liias and Fey, and Ranking Members King and Barkis,

As the 39th legislative delegation, we stand in strong support of the City of Sultan's transportation funding request for design and right-of-way acquisition to begin the replacement of Wagley Creek Bridge, as well as the development of a two-lane roundabout at Sultan Basin Rd. and US 2. During the months leading up to this session, the City met with each of you to share more about this project and the collaborative efforts that have occurred between the city and WSDOT to identify safety and mobility solutions to US-2 in Sultan. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts to make the trip to Sultan and to learn more about the challenges stemming from US 2.

The statewide demand on US 2 creates significant congestion issues along the portion of the corridor in Sultan, resulting in safety and mobility issues for all modes of transportation within the area. US 2 is a main regional corridor connecting the east and west sides of the state. Congestion along US 2 in Sultan reaches gridlock on weekdays and worsens on weekends, creating significant safety issues on US 2 and local roads with an influx in rear-end collisions and other incidents. The failure of the state to address congestion on this state-owned route has a negative impact on the safety and quality of life for those living in Sultan. As small community of 6,200 divided in half by US 2, the City of Sultan maintains local roads that carry three times its population, which is directly caused by the diversion of those traveling on US 2.

The City has taken leadership in identifying a viable solution, design, and cost estimate to address safety, mobility, and congestion along the portion of US 2 in Sultan in coordination with WSDOT and the Legislature. The City commissioned a corridor study to consider all options to address the safety and capacity issues along US 2 within Sultan and began a public outreach process to help identify improvements to US 2 within Sultan, which included an extensive survey questionnaire, open house events, and a stakeholder engagement process. Four different design alternatives were considered and included the evaluation of traffic flow and safety for vehicles/bicycles/pedestrians/freight and other road users on US 2. The identified project solution is estimated to cost \$28 million, which includes the replacement of the Wagley Creek Bridge and the fish culvert, as well as the development of a two-lane roundabout at Sultan Basin Rd and US-2.



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The City was recently notified by WSDOT that a portion of the Connecting Washington safety funds for US 2 will be used to develop a roundabout at Old Owen Road in Sultan. The City also received funding for design and right of way for a roundabout at Main Street from the Puget Sound Regional Council. To support the remaining portions of the project, the City plans to pursue state and federal funding opportunities.

Please act this session and include \$5 million within the transportation budget for the design and right-of-way acquisition to begin the replacement of Wagley Creek Bridge, as well as the development of a two-lane roundabout at Sultan Basin Rd.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Keith L. Wagoner in black ink.

Senator Keith Wagoner, 39th LD

Handwritten signature of Carolyn Eslick in black ink.

Representative Carolyn Eslick, 39th LD

Handwritten signature of Sam Low in black ink.

Representative Sam Low, 39th LD