



Washington State Senate

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Senator Brad Hawkins
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Dear Sultan residents,

It is my honor to serve as your state senator. As you may know, the 12th District boundaries recently changed to reach over the Cascade Mountains and into a portion of Snohomish County. The district boundaries now include the Highway 2 communities from Leavenworth to Monroe. As the new state senator representing Sultan, I have really appreciated the many helpful communications I have had with your Mayor Russell Wiita and other officials regarding challenges along Highway 2.

During the 2022 legislative session, I partnered with Highway 2 communities to sponsor Senate Bill 5603, calling for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to conduct a Highway 2 corridor study between Wenatchee and Monroe to improve traffic flow and safety. As a member of the Senate Transportation Committee, my objective was to utilize the bill as a way to raise awareness of the significant congestion and safety challenges along the highway. With the help of Mayor Wiita and others, we made major progress with committee members, successfully emphasizing that Highway 2 challenges are a statewide issue affecting travelers from both eastern and western Washington.

Following last legislative session, Sultan officials continued to show strong leadership and collaboration in identifying a viable solution to congestion and safety issues near Sultan. The city has identified a preferred corridor improvement plan that includes several project components, which will be completed as funding is acquired. Currently, the city is working to secure funding to replace the Wagley Creek Bridge and fish culvert, and also adding a two-lane roundabout at Sultan Basin Road and Highway 2. (See enclosed insert). I am in full support of this project to improve this portion of the corridor.

This year, on behalf of the city, I have sponsored a Transportation Budget request of \$5 million to support the design and right-of-way acquisition of the bridge replacement and the development of a roundabout at Sultan Basin Road and Highway 2. In addition to direct budget requests, I also support Sultan's efforts to secure state and federal grants to fund this project. Also, a portion of WSDOT's safety funds approved in 2015 will be used to develop a roundabout at Old Owen Road. Funding support is also provided by the Puget Sound Regional Council for design and right-of-way work for another roundabout at Main Street. Together, these project components will provide significant relief to the community and to the region.

These exciting developments are the result of months of hard work by Sultan officials. I will continue to advocate for these Highway 2 improvements among my top legislative priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hawkins".

Brad Hawkins