

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**
County Courthouse
311 Grand Ave. Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Jack Louws
County Executive

June 2, 2015

Mr. Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

**SUBJECT: Request for 2015 TIGER Funding for Gooseberry Point/Fishermen's
Cove Working Waterfront Improvements**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Whatcom County strongly supports a Gooseberry Point/Fishermen's Cove Working Waterfront Improvements TIGER grant proposal. Whatcom County and Lummi Nation are working towards a partnership that advances economic development and long-term transportation solutions for our shared community. The present proposal is expected to accomplish these goals by building on the successes of other shared regional investments.

Project elements essential for achieving the Lummi Nation's vision of a working waterfront and substantially improving Whatcom County's public transportation infrastructure are as follows:

Phase 1

- Preliminary design of replacement ferry and terminal facilities at Gooseberry Point and Lummi Island
- Final design, property acquisition, permitting, and construction of a relocated ferry terminal at Gooseberry Point
- Design, permitting, and construction of a commercial fuel dock to safely service the ferry, Lummi fishing fleet, and other commercial and recreational vessels
- Design of additional working waterfront improvements at Gooseberry Point

Phase 2

- Final design and construction of four contiguous public walkways to provide safe, ADA compliant access to and around terminal facilities for local residents and ferry passengers.
- Construction of additional working waterfront improvements at Gooseberry Point

Phase 3

- Acquisition of an ADA compliant, US Coast Guard certified ferry
- Final design and construction of terminal improvements at Lummi Island

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The County understands that the Lummi Nation's financial commitment to the project is nearly \$2 million in past investment. Whatcom County paid for preliminary engineering of the walkways. Our regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Whatcom Council of Governments, contributed an additional \$500,000 for design and right-of-way purchase for the pedestrian walkways. The Washington State Department of Transportation provided oversight of these federal dollars.

This project delivers a substantial and lasting public benefit to the people of Whatcom County and the Lummi Nation. It is an ideal infrastructure project for the TIGER program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Louws', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Jack Louws
County Executive

cc: Tim Ballew II, Chairman, Lummi Indian Business Council
Congresswoman Susan DelBene
Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patti Murray
Whatcom County Council Members