

Letters of Support

Government

- [City of Bellevue](#)
- [City of Renton](#)
- [King County Executive and Council](#)
- [Representative Adam Smith \(WA 9th District\)](#)
- [Representative Suzan DelBene \(WA 1st District\)](#)
- [Senator Maria Cantwell](#)
- [Senator Patty Murray](#)

Regional Partners

- [Eastrail Regional Advisory Council](#)
- [King County Metro](#)
- [Leafline Trails Coalition](#)
- [Puget Sound Regional Council](#)
- [Sound Transit](#)
- [Washington State Department of Transportation](#)

Business

- [Amazon](#)
- [Bellevue Chamber](#)
- [Bellevue Downtown Association](#)
- [Evergreen Health](#)
- [KG Investment Properties](#)
- [REI](#)
- [Seahawks](#)
- [Seattle Childrens Hospital](#)
- [SRM Development](#)
- [T-Mobile](#)
- [Wright Runstad](#)

Non-Profit

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- [Eastside for All](#)
- [Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust](#)
- [Move Redmond](#)
- [Outdoors for All](#)
- [Peace Peloton](#)
- [Renton Regional Community Foundation](#)
- [Transportation Choices](#)
- [Washington Trails Association](#)





February 12, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Bellevue, I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' project. If funded, this project will connect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project connects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of federal highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail along I-90.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265 million over 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will provide access to Downtown Bellevue, a regionally-designated urban center, improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and support the infrastructure needs for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lynne Robinson
City of Bellevue



Armondo Pavone Mayor

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their "Closing the Eastrail Gap" Project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge (which spans sixteen lanes of highway), building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound Interstate 90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down this region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

Thank you for your review of the application and your consideration of the many benefits that "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

Armondo Pavone
Mayor

AP:aa

cc: Metropolitan King County Council
Woodinville City Council
US Senator Patty Murray

US Senator Maria Cantwell
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene
Congressman Adam Smith

24-020



King County

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support - King County, WA, Application for USDOT's RAISE Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We wish to pledge our strong support for King County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding *American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)* Grant Program for the Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. This project will close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail in Bellevue, WA.

According to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) King County's current population of 2.2 million is projected to grow by 38% in the next twenty-five years. The Puget Sound region has invested in a future that incentivizes transportation mode-shifts and contributes to our regional goals of reducing VMT, and greenhouse gas emissions, improving public health, and increasing safe, accessible transportation options for all King County residents.

The project will connect two majority-minority communities currently divided by sixteen lanes of highway by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, repurposing a wooden trestle bridge and constructing 1.7 miles of new, paved trail between Mercer Slough Nature Park to the north and Coal Creek Parkway to the south.

Once complete, this project will close a major gap in the 26-mile Eastrail and provide safe and accessible active transportation between fast-growing employment hubs, high-capacity transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. This trail segment will also create a seamless connection to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail and is a critical link in the expansive regional trail system.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments over the broader corridor area. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative and countless recreational opportunities.

These investments exhibit a robust and reliable track record of local and regional financial support for Eastrail. The largest source of these funds, the 2020 – 2025 Parks, Recreation, Trail and Open Space Levy passed with 70% of the vote and provided \$50.5 million in funding toward Eastrail projects. The next Levy funding period – 2026 to 2031 coincides with the timing of construction for this segment. We will continue to work closely with our public and private partners to identify a combination of local, private and levy funds that would augment Federal grants.

Closing the Eastrail Gap will improve safety and quality of life in Puget Sound region by improving multi-modal connections that respond to climate change, meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region and provide greenspace, respite and recreation. We support the application from King County and thank you for your consideration of the numerous benefits King County's Closing the Eastrail Gap Project will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Claudia Balducci
King County Councilmember

Sarah Perry
King County Councilmember

ADAM SMITH
9TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON
2264 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8901
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4709

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The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support - King County, WA, Application for USDOT's RAISE Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the *Closing the Eastrail Gap: I-90 Segment Project*. This project will close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail.

The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway. It also builds 1.7 miles of new paved trail. Once complete, this project it will provide safe and accessible non-motorized travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. This trail segment will also create a seamless link to the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trail and is a critical link in the expansive regional trail system.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265 million over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative and endless recreational opportunities.

This project will improve safety and quality of life in the Puget Sound region by improving multi-modal connections that help to address climate change, meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region and provide greenspace, respite and recreation. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the numerous benefits King County's *Closing the Eastrail Gap: I-90 Segment Project* will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith, Member of Congress

REP. SUZAN K. DELBENE
1ST DISTRICT, WASHINGTON
2330 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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450 CENTRAL WAY, SUITE 3100
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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of King County's application to the *U.S. Department of Transportation's* Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the "Closing the Eastrail Gap: I-90 Segment Project."

This project would improve community safety, climate change impacts, and quality of life in the Puget Sound region by improving multi-modal connections, meeting the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region, and providing greenspace, respite, and recreation for the community.

The project would complete the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail and reconnect communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway. Additionally, the project would build nearly two miles of new paved trail, which upon completion, would provide safe and accessible non-motorized travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The trail segment would create a seamless link to the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trail – a critical link in the expansive regional trail system.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, nonprofits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265 million over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. My office has also secured Community Project Funding in a previous fiscal year to support the build out of the Eastrail. These investments have decreased the region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative and endless recreational opportunities.

For these reasons, I encourage your full and fair consideration of King County's grant application. Please send along any updates on this letter and/or grant application to Rachel.Alger@mail.house.gov in my office.

Sincerely,



Suzan K DelBene
Member of Congress, WA-01

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks – Parks Division’s (KCDNRPPD) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants program. KCDNRPPD is seeking \$25,000,000 for the Closing the Eastrail Gap: I-90 Segment Project.

Transportation-related emissions are the largest contributor to air quality issues in King County. The Eastside has seen significant population and job growth in the last 10 years, resulting in the need for infrastructure investments that encourage mode shifts to incentivize non-motorized mobility. The Eastrail Multi-Use Trail will be an uninterrupted 42-mile north-south trail built on a historic railroad line that will connect communities on the east side of Lake Washington and provide new opportunities for non-motorized recreation and transportation. This regional trail is a key piece of the region’s efforts to manage growth while also addressing climate change by improving multi-modal options and connections as an alternative to single-occupancy car trips.

RAISE Grant funds will be used to close the final gap in the 26-mile, southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail. It will retrofit two existing bridges, including the large steel bridge spanning I-90, and build 1.7 miles of paved trail to link Bellevue and Renton. The project closes a critical gap in the shared-use Eastrail regional trail, by creating a safe, accessible connection across the I-90 highway from Coal Creek Parkway, Factoria, and Eastgate to the Wilburton neighborhood. Once complete the project will support transit-oriented development along the Eastrail in Bellevue (Spring District, Wilburton, Factoria, and Eastgate) and connect to transit stations, light rail, and the employment and retail hubs in Bellevue and Renton. Additionally, Eastrail will serve as a driver of recreation and tourism by its scenic location paralleling Lake Washington, connection to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail, and proximity to Mercer Slough Nature Preserve.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the KCDNRPPD’s application to the RAISE Grant program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell

United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of an application submitted by King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks Division for the Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program* for the Closing the Eastrail Gap: I-90 Segment Project.

King County is seeking RAISE grant funding to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail. The 42-mile trail along the east side of Lake Washington runs from Renton to Snohomish, a rapidly growing area in the Pacific Northwest region. It is estimated that 2.3 million people will live within eight miles of the project by 2050. A critical gap in the shared-use Eastrail regional trail will be closed by retrofitting two existing bridges and building 1.7 miles of paved trail between Renton and Bellevue, completing a seamless link with the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trail. The gap requires users to navigate I-405, 118th Street, and I-90 on roadways without dedicated facilities. The I-90 Segment Project will improve multi-modal connections as an alternative to single-occupancy car trips, addressing climate change and transportation-related emissions, the largest contributor to air quality issues in King County.

Additionally, the completion of this project has wide-reaching implications for the surrounding areas. Most immediately, the nearby majority-minority communities of Factoria, Eastgate, and Wilburton will benefit directly from closing the Eastrail gap, all of which have seen significant population and job growth in the last 10 years. This has resulted in the need for additional infrastructure investments. The improvements to regional recreation and sustainability will have long-lasting positive impacts for these communities and others that are connected to the Eastrail regional trail.

Thank you for your consideration of King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks Division application. Please contact Bree Rouborn in my Seattle office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

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website: <http://murray.senate.gov>
e-mail: <http://murray.senate.gov/email>

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(509) 453-7462



February 16, 2024

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC), we are pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the County's "Closing the Eastrail Gap" project. If funded this project will connect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

The Eastrail is a 42-mile corridor running along the eastern shores of Lake Washington in King County and extending north into central Snohomish County. Our region is repurposing this historic railroad corridor into a multiple-purpose corridor that supports high-capacity transit, major utilities, and a regional trail. The RAC is the legislatively created body tasked with coordinating the collaborative efforts of multiple corridor owners, stakeholders, and the community at large to transform this corridor to serve a vibrant, growing, and diverse community.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 RAISE capital grant to construct a project that will close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail trail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound Greenway I-90 trail.

Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative. This partnership encompasses an additional key Eastrail project seeking funding in this round of RAISE: the City of Woodinville's project to complete trail design, planning and permitting for its entire 2-mile ownership area in a northern portion of the corridor.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. We urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number of benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide residents of the Puget Sound region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Arnold".

Jay Arnold
Co-Chair
Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Perry".

Sarah Perry
Co-Chair
Eastrail Regional Advisory Council

And
Deputy Mayor
City of Kikland

and
Councilmember
King County Council



Moving forward together

General Manager's Office

201 S. Jackson Street
KSC-TR-0415
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

King County Metro is pleased to support this application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing "Mountains to Sound" I-90 trail.

As one of the largest bus agencies in the country and a pioneer in connecting bicycles to buses, King County Metro has always believed in the combined power of bikes and transit to provide transportation options for people. Closing this final gap will allow much improved bike access to light rail and bus service throughout the region and link major employment centers.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region and help meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number of benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Michelle Allison
CFAFB29C7D8F4A1...
Michelle Allison
General Manager

leafline trails coalition

Connecting Trails, Connecting Communities

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support - King County, WA, Application for USDOT's RAISE Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Leafline Trails Coalition, please accept this letter of support for King County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)* Grant Program for the Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. This project will close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail in Bellevue, WA.

Leafline Trails Coalition works to realize a 900-mile trails network – the Leafline Trails Network – that provides equitable access, improved health, enhanced mobility, economic benefits, and recreational opportunities to thriving communities across the central Puget Sound region. One of our main objectives is to build a resilient trails network that offers safe, reliable and healthy transportation options that connect to high-capacity transit. Today, this network is 56 percent complete, with 300 miles of the existing network located in King County.

The Closing the Eastrail Gap Project will connect two majority-minority communities currently divided by sixteen lanes of highway by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, repurposing a wooden trestle bridge and constructing 1.7 miles of new, paved trail between Mercer Slough Nature Park to the north and Coal Creek Parkway to the south.

Once complete, this project will connect the cities of Renton and Bellevue and create a continuous 26 mile north-south trail. This project will also connect new transit-oriented developments in Bellevue, and support expanded ridership of light rail and bus transit by providing first and final mile connections and create a high-comfort link to the I-90/Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail. This I-90 segment has been identified as a critical project to compete in our 2023 Gap Analysis Prioritization.

For all of the reasons above, we gladly support the application from King County and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Emily Griffith, Chair
Leafline Trails Coalition





Puget Sound Regional Council

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98101-3055 | psrc.org | 206-464-7090

February 27, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support – King County, WA, Application for USDOT’s RAISE Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We wish to express our strong support for King County’s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for the Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. This project will close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail regional trail in Bellevue, WA.

The project will connect two majority-minority communities currently divided by sixteen lanes of highway by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, repurposing a wooden trestle bridge and constructing 1.7 miles of new, paved trail between Mercer Slough Nature Park to the north and Coal Creek Parkway to the south.

According to our projections King County’s current population of 2.2 million is projected to grow by 38% in the next 25f years. The Puget Sound region has invested in a future that incentivizes transportation mode shifts and contributes to our regional goals of reducing VMT and greenhouse gas emissions, improving public health, and increasing safe, accessible transportation options for all King County residents.

The goals of this project are consistent with many of our Vision 2050 goals including providing opportunities for all, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping the region moving, growing in centers near transit and acting collaboratively



February 7, 2024

John Taylor
Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
King Street Center
201 South Jackson St. Rm 815
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

Subject: King County's RAISE application

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

John S. Henry
Chief Financial Officer

CHAIR

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

VICE CHAIR

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive

BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Backus
Auburn Mayor

Claudia Balducci
King County Councilmember

Angela Birney
Redmond Mayor

Bruce Dammeier
Pierce County Executive

Cassie Franklin
Everett Mayor

Christine Frizzell
Lynnwood Mayor

Bruce Harrell
Seattle Mayor

Roger Millar
*Washington State Secretary
of Transportation*

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Fife Mayor

Dan Strauss
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Kristina Walker
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Girmay Zahilay
King County Council Vice Chair

**INTERIM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Goran Sparrman



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

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February 20, 2024

The Honorable Ashley Probart, Executive Director
Transportation Improvement Board
505 Union Ave SE, Suite 350
P.O. Box 40901
Olympia, WA 98504-0901

**RE: 2024 KING COUNTY PARKS RAISE GRANT
APPLICATION / EASTRAIL I-90 SEGMENT PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Probart:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) supports the King County Park's funding request for the Eastrail I-90 Segment Project.

The project will construct a new portion of Eastrail, a paved regional trail, 1.7 miles of new trail, and retrofit the existing bridge that spans sixteen lanes of Federal Interstate 90.

WSDOT believes this a good project and we hope you give this important regional project full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Millar'.

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP
Secretary of Transportation



February 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County, Washington RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express Amazon's support for King County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

King County's proposal to close the remaining gap in the southern segment of the regional Eastrail will provide safe travel between transit, jobs, and recreation in the economic centers on the east side of Lake Washington. Amazon has been a champion of Eastrail for its unique opportunity to connect over 175 miles of existing regional trails, employment hubs, Sound Transit's East Link light rail extension, and King County Metro's RapidRide. Completion of the full Eastrail corridor, including the northern segment in Woodinville, will also benefit Amazon employees located in the Puget Sound region by enhancing non-motorized regional mobility and connectivity to transit.

We ask that you give King County's application full consideration. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashleigh de la Torre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashleigh de la Torre
Vice President, Public Policy



The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 15, 2024

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Fain'.

Joe Fain
President & CEO, Bellevue Chamber

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for King County's RAISE application for the Closing the Eastrail Gap Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing on behalf of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to support King County's application for a \$25 million 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to help complete the final gap in the southern segment of Eastrail, a 26-mile rails-to-trails project. This critical trail project connects the cities of Bellevue and Renton over I-90.

The RAISE funding will help retrofit an existing steel bridge that spans six lanes of traffic over I-90, build 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and create a link to the 20-mile Mountains to Sound Greenway trail. Closing this gap strengthens Puget Sound's regional trail network as a viable non-vehicular mobility system.

Eastrail is a catalyst for future multimodal projects. As an example, the City of Bellevue is pursuing an initiative to construct a non-vehicular crossing from Downtown Bellevue over I-405 to Eastrail. However, this major project, like others in our region, relies on closing the Eastrail gap. The Eastrail I-90 project, once funded and completed, will be leveraged by each of the cities to build other safe and reliable multimodal projects.

The BDA is a non-profit association with over 250 members representing a diverse range of businesses and organizations, from coffee shops to property owners to major tech employers. We care deeply about the health and strength of Downtown Bellevue as a place to live, work and play. We support multimodal initiatives that improve access to Downtown Bellevue that ensure it's an inclusive place welcoming to all. Closing this I-90 gap for Eastrail is aligned with our multimodal goals for creating a network that supports diversifying modes of transportation in Downtown Bellevue, East King County, and Puget Sound Region.

Thank you for the consideration and support of community development through the RAISE program.

Sincerely,



Patrick Bannon
BDA President & CEO



Matt Jack
BDA Director of Public Policy

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation. The Eastrail aligns with EvergreenHealth's mission of improving the health and wellbeing of the community we serve.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

Funding the Eastrail via the RAISE Grant Program will improve the overall health of our community on the Eastside for generations to come. There is abundant research about the positive impact of access to nature and greenspace on health and well-being. Multiple studies show that although physical activity promotes health whether people engage in it indoors or outdoors, "green exercise" outdoors in nature is connected with greater feelings of enjoyment, energy, vitality, restoration, and self-esteem. Access to nature is important with respect to health equity, and studies have found that ensuring access to green spaces in low-income neighborhoods and for people of all abilities appears a promising approach to reducing health inequalities, increasing longevity, and improving health behaviors.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound and Eastside residents.

Sincerely,



Ettore Palazzo, MD
Chief Executive Officer

egpalazzo@evergreenhealth.com

12040 NE 128th Street, MS#14
Kirkland, WA 98034-3098

evergreenhealth.com

Phone
(425) 899-2610

Fax:
(425) 899-2624



The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the EasTrail Gap Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible, non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the EasTrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the EasTrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The EasTrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number of benefits "Closing the EasTrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Kramer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Kramer
Principal
KG Investment Properties



Public Affairs
6750 S. 228th St.
Kent, WA 98032

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: REI Support for King County RAISE Planning Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of REI Co-op, our 16,000 employees across 42 states and D.C., and 23 million lifetime members, we strongly support King County’s RAISE planning grant application for their ‘Closing the Eastrail Gap’ Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

We believe that time outside is fundamental to a life well lived—that our connection to nature is essential to the health and well-being of all people and communities. America’s public lands, waters and trails are essential infrastructure, supporting the \$1.1 trillion dollar outdoor recreation industry and more than 5 million jobs nationwide.

REI has supported and invested in the Eastrail Corridor for many years, which spans 42 miles of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trails that provides safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State’s most important manufacturing areas. The Eastrail Corridor provides transit access to regional light rail and large employers, supports opportunities for multi-income housing, and drives regional growth opportunities.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region’s emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to communities across Washington State.

Sincerely,

Tom Bugert
State & Local Government Affairs Manager



We inspire, educate and outfit for a lifetime of outdoor adventure and stewardship.



February 16, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Seattle Seahawks organization is excited to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project.

With our football headquarters and practice facility located alongside the southern segment of the Eastrail, we know well the value of the trail provides for the residents and businesses it connects. The Federal RAISE Grant would build upon the tremendous partnership and financial investment this region has advanced to date, with the grant helping to close the gap and finalize the project. As our region continues significant growth, a completed Eastrail will provide important commuting and recreating alternatives. Our Renton facility surges in activity during training camp and throughout the football season, and a built out Eastrail would help to bring guests and staff in a safe and sustainable manner.

Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents. Our organization recognizes and supports the transformative benefits of play, sport, and physical activity especially in youth. We are excited about the benefits a completed Eastrail can bring to our region while advancing the purpose of the RAISE Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Johnston".

Drew Johnston
Director of Government Affairs and Compliance
Seattle Seahawks

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26 mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

8C2D459F58584E7...
Francesca Vega

Vice President, External Affairs and Community Relations

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26 mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Dave Tomson

SRM Development

cc: Metropolitan King County Council
Kirkland City Council
US Senator Patty Murray
US Senator Maria Cantwell
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene
Congressman Dave Reichert
Congressman Adam Smith

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

T-Mobile is pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible, non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

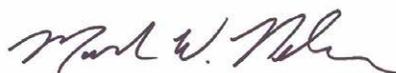
King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

As a proud member of the King County community, T-Mobile is excited to support the Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. Our Bellevue headquarters is located close to the project site, and we believe that this new transportation alternative will greatly benefit our approximately 5,000 local employees and their community. By enhancing safe and accessible non-motorized transportation options, our employees will have more opportunities to commute and recreate in a sustainable and healthy way while meeting the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region.

We are proud to support this project and the positive impact it will have on our community. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration given the numerous benefits Closing the Eastrail Gap will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Nelson

EVP & General Counsel, T-Mobile US, Inc.

**WRIGHT
RUNSTAD
& COMPANY**

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON RAISE APPLICATION

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Wright Runstad & Company is pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for its Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25M 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once completed, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington state's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. We urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Andy Bench
President

AB/jkh



January 31, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

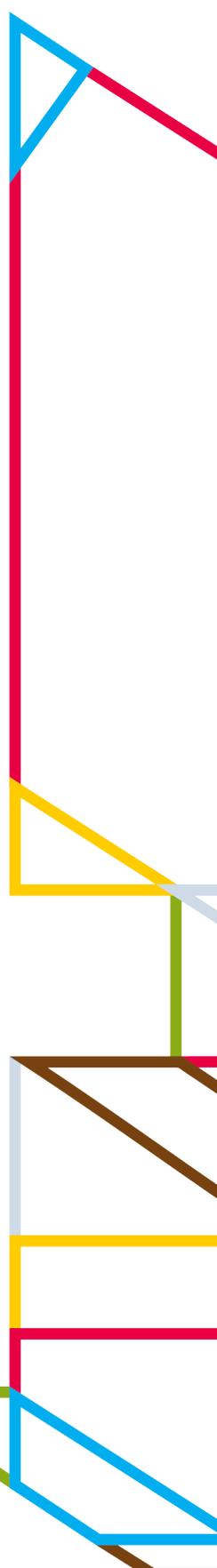
King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

Kelly Pajek
Director of Public Art, 4Culture





7787 62nd Avenue NE Seattle, WA 98115-8155
P (206) 552-3222 • www.cascade.org • info@cascade.org

[f /CascadeBicycleClub](https://www.facebook.com/CascadeBicycleClub) [t @cascadebicycle](https://twitter.com/cascadebicycle) [i @cascadebicycle](https://www.instagram.com/cascadebicycle)

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 15, 2024

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Cascade Bicycle Club is a statewide organization representing and advocating for the needs of people who bike – or want to – across Washington State. We are writing to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26 mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Lambert', written in a cursive style.

Lee Lambert
Executive Director
Cascade Bicycle Club



February 16, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Eastrail Partners shares our strong support of King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible, multi-modal transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

The 42-mile Eastrail corridor connects seven cities and two counties, multiple public transit options, and utilities along the east side of Lake Washington, and is a significant spine of our region's trail network and transportation options. A former rail line, the Eastrail is a partnership success story, with over \$265M invested to date, primarily from municipal, county, and state funds, as well as an unprecedented \$10M in private sector investment.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail and connecting Renton and South King County to the rest of Eastrail.

Funding for this project, along with the Eastrail planning effort in Woodinville, will leverage the millions of primarily non-federal funds that have been invested to make a fully connected Eastrail a reality.

Eastrail Partners is the nonprofit unifying and catalyzing the Eastrail effort, working to make the Eastrail for everyone, every day. We support King County's RAISE grant application for capital funds, as it will close the last major Eastrail gap in King County and connect communities. This capital grant will go hand in hand with Eastrail planning project in Woodinville that will allow the most northern section of Eastrail in King County to get underway.

King County's project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. We are pleased to work in partnership with King County on this important project.

Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine M. Hollis".

Katherine Hollis, Executive Director

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lacy, Executive Director
Eastside For All
Debbie@eastsideforall.org
425.209.0895



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristin Bail (X), Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Cathy Baker, Director of Federal Government Relations,
The Nature Conservancy
Jim Becker, Retired, Founder, SmartLab Toys and becker&mayer!
Laurie Benson, Washington State Conservation Director,
The Trust for Public Land
Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, WA State Dept. of
Natural Resources
Mark Boyar (*), President, Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition
Jason Broenneke (*), CFO, Matthew G. Norton Company
Allison Capen, Technical Director, International Living Institute
Susan Carlson, Environmental Education & Research Center,
University of Washington - Bothell
Bill Chapman (*), Past President, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Dow Constantine (X), King County Executive
Kitty Craig, Deputy Director, Washington Program,
The Wilderness Society
Deloa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley Leadership Team;
The Mountaineers Foothills Branch
Diana Dupuis (X), Director,
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist,
Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters;
Alpine Lakes Protection Society
Kurt Fraese (*), Fraese and Associates, LLC
Hilary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands, WA State Dept. of
Natural Resources
Jim Freeburg, Trust Land Transfer Revitalization
Robin Freedman, Senior Manager, Public Sector Sales,
Waste Management
Lindsay Frickle, Advancement Director,
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Jen Gradisher, Trail Program Director, Washington Trails Association
Matt Grimm, Investment Professional, BMGI
Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft
Katherine Hollis, Executive Director, Eastrail Partners
Mitsu Iwasaki, Northwest Director, The Trust for Public Land
Cameron James, Chief Commercial Officer, REI Co-op
Warren Jimenez (X), Director, King County Parks
Andrew Kenefick, Trout Unlimited
Melanie Kitzan, Associate General Counsel, Alpine Immune Sciences
Janet Knox, President & Principal Geochemist,
Pacific Groundwater Group
Ken Konigsmark, Issaquah Alps Trails Club
Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
Danny Levine, Retired, President, NationAd Communications
Rachel Lodge, Artist and Policy Communications Consultant
Elizabeth Lunney (*), Former Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Interim Executive Director
Ben Mayer, Associate, K&L Gates
Dr. Roberta McFarland, Outdoor Schools Washington
Roger Millar (X), Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT
Chad Nesland, Director, Microsoft Procurement, Microsoft
Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director,
American Whitewater
Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club,
Washington State Chapter
Jim Reinhardtsen (*), President, Laird Norton Properties
Vik Sahney, Board VP, E&I Committee Chair, The Mountaineers
Kate Schaefer, Vice President, Commercial Modifications,
Engineering and Specialty Products, Boeing Global Services
Meredith Shank, NW Conservation Philanthropy Fellowship
Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
Chris Thomas, Vice President, Head of Public Affairs, Divert, Inc.
Harry Thomas, Chief Marketing Officer, AAA Washington
Leah Tivoli, Manager, City of Seattle
Adam Torem, Industrial Insurance Appeals Judge,
Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals
Jody Weil (X), Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

President
Alison Washburn (*), Store Manager, REI Co-op
Vice President
Josh M. Lipsky (*), Partner, Cascadia Law Group PLLC
Immediate Past President
Doug McClelland (*), Former Assistant Region Manager
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Founding President
Jim Ellis (1921-2019), Chairman Emeritus, Washington
State Convention Center

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Fundraising Committee Chair
Ken Krivanec (*), President, Tri Pointe Homes

Board Engagement Committee Chair
Marie Quasius(*), Senior Port Counsel, Port of Seattle
Executive Director
Jon Hoekstra (*), Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Director Emeritus
Sally Jewell, Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for King County's RAISE application - 'Closing the Eastrail Gap'

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. This project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible, non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is the coordinating entity for the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area that runs between Seattle and Central Washington and encompasses spectacular natural lands and communities, from urban areas to farms and forests and federally-designated wilderness with world-class recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the 42-mile Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the Interstate 90 steel bridge, the former railway bridge which spans sixteen lanes of interstate highway; building 1.7 miles of new paved trail; and connecting the north-south Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail that runs east-west along Interstate 90. The I-90 steel bridge also spans the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Scenic Byway, a designation awarded to this section of I-90, an honor usually reserved for smaller, rural roads.

Development of the 42-mile Eastrail and community trails linking to it represents a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative, and have provided a safe, healthy, active transportation option.

We strongly support this project because we are committed to public infrastructure projects that improve transportation options, provide neighborhood connectivity, enhance work environments and quality of life, increase opportunities for recreation, improve public health and reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' project will improve safety and quality of life while meeting infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region.

Sincerely,

Amy Brockhaus, Deputy Director

(*) Executive Committee Member
(X) Ex-Officio (non-voting) Director

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation. The Eastrail is unique trail project that connects communities and improves access to transit in East King County. Move Redmond is a transportation Management Association in Redmond and is connected to other communities on the Eastside through the Eastrail. Our membership represents the 100,000 people who live, work and go to school in Redmond.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. Between The Eastrail connections and the investments in light rail on the Eastside, there is an opportunity to significantly reduce vehicle miles traveled because of the way these projects complement each other. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Kelli Refer
Executive Director of Move Redmond

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As a representative of the Outdoors for All Foundation I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

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This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,



Connor Inslee
Associate Executive Director
Outdoors for All Foundation

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program for their 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

Reginald 'Doc' Wilson

Doc Wilson
Executive Director
Peace Peloton



February 14, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26 mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LeAnne Moss".

LeAnne Moss, Executive Director
Renton Regional Community Foundation



The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County's RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of Transportation Choices Coalition to support King County's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for their Closing the Eastrail Gap Project. If funded this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting, and recreation.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. Once complete, it will provide safe travel between fast-growing employment hubs, transit, and one of Washington State's most important manufacturing areas. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail, and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies, and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have driven down our region's emissions by providing a safe and welcoming commuting alternative.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region, and meet the infrastructure demands of a growing and economically active region. I urge a favorable review of this application. Thank you for your consideration of the number of benefits "Closing the Eastrail Gap" will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hester Serebrin".

Hester Serebrin
Policy Director
Transportation Choices Coalition



Washington Trails Association

705 Second Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle WA 98104 • 206.625.1367 • wta.org

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: King County Eastrail 2024 RAISE application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association (WTA) to express our support of King County Parks' RAISE grant application to fund the 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' project. If funded, this project will reconnect two regional economic centers with a safe, accessible non-motorized transportation alternative to high-traffic roads for commuting and recreation.

Washington Trails Association has a more than 50-year legacy of engaging the hiking community. WTA enhances hiking experiences in Washington State by empowering a diverse and growing community of hikers to explore, steward and protect trails and public lands. WTA is the nation's largest state-based trail maintenance and hiking advocacy nonprofit organization, with more than 25,000 member households and an online community of more than 180,000. Each year more than 3,500 WTA volunteers perform over 130,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

King County is applying for a \$25 million 2024 Federal RAISE Grant to close the final gap in the 26-mile southern segment of the Eastrail. The project reconnects communities by retrofitting the I-90 steel bridge, which spans sixteen lanes of highway, building 1.7 miles of new paved trail and connecting the Eastrail to the existing Mountains to Sound I-90 trail.

The Eastrail is a partnership success story, with jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses, transit agencies and utilities within King County investing \$265M over the last 15 years to acquire the corridor and construct existing trail segments. These investments have provided safe commuting alternatives and expanded recreational trail access, including with the associated physical and mental health benefits of time spent outdoors.

This project will improve safety and quality of life for those in the region and meet the infrastructure demands for a growing and economically active region. Thank you for your consideration of the number benefits 'Closing the Eastrail Gap' will provide Puget Sound residents.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler | Advocacy Director