

29 March 2023

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

RE:

Federal Rail Administration Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program
Federal Rail Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of five boards of trade and chambers of commerce in the metro Vancouver region, we are writing to express our collective support for the Cascadia Ultra-High-Speed Ground Transportation (UHSGT) project and the actions and cross-sector collaboration needed to make it a reality. The business community recognizes the importance of investing in transportation infrastructure to drive economic growth and the movement of goods and people and sees the importance of cross-border connectivity in this region of high potential.

Our members and the customers they serve want safe, reliable, and fast transportation options that enable them to get around in a convenient and sustainable way. Through its high-speed rail network, the UHSGT project presents a massive opportunity to help the Cascadia region strategically respond to a growing population, while serving as a catalyst for shared priorities including GHG emissions reduction, economic growth and regional competitiveness. By connecting major urban centers in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, the Cascadia UHSGT project could create ample opportunities for business growth, innovation, exchange of ideas and people on both sides of the border.

The UHSGT would positively impact not only the Vancouver region but the entire Pacific Northwest in achieving our environmental and economic goals. Growth projections for the Cascadia region are startling, with the populations expected to increase by more than 30% -- or 3 to 4 million additional people -- by 2050.


As with other major infrastructure projects, the development of the Cascadia UHSGT would require significant funding and coordination between different levels of government, as well as private sector partners. As such, we encourage all levels of government to continue to work closely with the business community on both sides of the border to find ways to make this vision a reality. As the business community in the Greater Vancouver region, we look forward to this work and we know our cross-border counterparts have demonstrated

their support for this initiative in a February 2023 letter signed by dozens of American cities, counties, businesses and business associations.


Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to advancing sustainable transportation infrastructure and the movement of goods and people between Canada and the United States.

Sincerely,

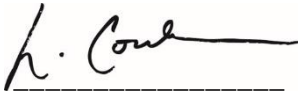



Bridgitte Anderson
President and CEO

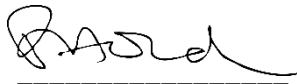



Anita Huberman
President and CEO




Leslie Courchesne
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