

DEREK KILMER
6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4706

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February 3, 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd, Executive Director
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001
RE: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Dear Director Shepherd,

I am pleased to write in support of the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA)'s Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program.

The NWSA seeks federal funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC), which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations.

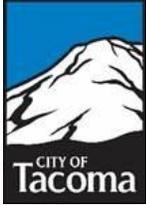
The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a "dogleg" in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety. That is why I am pleased to write in support of NWSA's Wapato Creek Culvert project and urge your full and fair consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Emma Abraham in my Tacoma district office at Emma.Abraham@mail.house.gov or 253-272-3515.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



City of Tacoma
Environmental Services Department

January 25, 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd
Executive Director
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Dear Director Shepherd:

Please accept my support for the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Wapato Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program.

The NWSA seeks federal funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC) which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations.

The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a 'dogleg" in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety. I urge you to support the NWSA Culvert AOP application. If you have any questions about my support for this planning effort, please contact me at 253-591-5528 or mslevin@cityoftacoma.org.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

Michael P. Slevin III, P.E.
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E.
Environmental Services Director



January 27, 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd
Executive Director
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Dear Director Shepherd:

Please accept the City of Fife's support for the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Wapato Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program. Portions of Wapato Creek flow through the City of Fife.

The NWSA seeks federal funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC) which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations.

The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a 'dogleg' in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for

surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety. I urge you to support the NWSA Culvert AOP application. If you have any questions about my support for this planning effort, please contact me at (253) 896-8603 or dmatheson@cityoffife.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Derek Matheson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Derek Matheson
City Manager



20 January 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd
Executive Director
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Dear Ms. Shepherd,

Please accept our support for The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Wapato Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted *to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program*.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber is a non-profit service organization focused on equitable economic development and community engagement in the South Sound. We have been in service for over 138 years and today serve almost 1400 members that represent diverse businesses and industry partners, many of which share our passion and commitment to supporting smart investments in ecological and economic infrastructure.

The NWSA seeks federal funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC) which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations.

The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a 'dogleg" in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety. I urge you to support the NWSA Culvert AOP application. If you have any questions about our support for this planning effort, please contact me, phone, and email below.

Sincerely,

Andrea H. Reay
Pres./CEO Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
950 Pacific Ave, Suite 300, Tacoma WA 98401
(253) 627-2175
AndreaR@TacomaChamber.org

January 21, 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd
Executive Director
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Dear Ms. Shepherd:

Please accept my support for The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Wapato Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program.

The NWSA seeks federal funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC) which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations.

The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a 'dogleg' in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety. I urge you to support the NWSA Culvert AOP application. If you have any questions about my support for this planning effort, please contact me at 253-284-5890 or Bruce@edbtacomapierce.org.

Sincerely,



Bruce Kendall
President & CEO



January 25, 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd
Executive Director
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Dear Director Shepherd,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Washington Business (AWB) in support for The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Wapato Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program.

AWB is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association, with nearly 7,000 member companies. AWB serves as both the state's chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association.

The NWSA seeks federal funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC) which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations.

The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a 'dogleg' in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety. I urge you to support the NWSA Culvert AOP application.

Sincerely,

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

Michael Ennis
Government Affairs Directors
Association of Washington Business



January 20, 2023

Gloria M. Shepherd
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Mailstop E62-204
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: NWSA Federal Highway Administration Culvert AOP Grant Application

Director Shepherd:

Please accept the Washington Public Ports Association's support for The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Wapato Creek Fish Passage Restoration grant application submitted to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program.

The NWSA seeks FHWA funding to design and permit a solution to the Wapato Creek Culvert (WCC) which currently presents a significant barrier to aquatic connectivity between Puget Sound and Wapato Creek. In addition to concerns for aquatic organism passage, local flood risk and declining structural integrity at the culvert threaten to disrupt international marine terminal operations. That would impact the jobs supported by our terminal operations along with the international competitiveness of our region's growers, shippers, manufacturers, and more.

The WCC conveys creek and tidal waters beneath Pierce County Terminal to an outlet on the Blair Waterway. Fish passage through the WCC is only possible during high tides, which restricts anadromous salmonids' access to upstream habitat. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) classifies the WCC as a fish barrier with an "unknown" percent passable. There is also a 'dogleg' in the culvert significantly restricting light in the system which further impedes fish migration. Improving aquatic connectivity at WCC will allow fish access to upstream habitat including the new habitat site at Lower Wapato Creek completed by the Port of Tacoma in collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, city governments, and other permitting agencies.

Addressing the WCC and outfall at the Pierce County Terminal will improve fish passage and establish hydrologic connectivity within the Wapato Creek estuary, reducing flood risks for surrounding communities while maintaining critical international marine terminal operations and safety.

On behalf of public ports in Washington, I urge you to support the NWSA Culvert AOP application. If you have any questions about my support for this planning effort, please contact me at effitch@washingtonports.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Ffitch".

Eric Ffitch
Executive Director
Washington Public Ports Association