



Washington State Senate

Mr. Jay Drye
Director, Local Programs
Washington State Department of Transportation, Local Programs Division
P.O. Box 47390
310 Maple Park Avenue
Olympia, WA 98504-7390

**Re: Request to Reprogram FFY 2023 Bridge Funding to Schooley Bridge in Zillah, WA
Federal Funding No. BROS-1500(003)**

Dear Mr. Drye:

We are writing to request that the funding currently allocated to the Zillah Heights Bridge Replacement Project (Bridge No. ZILLAH-401) be administratively reprogrammed to support the replacement of the Schooley Bridge (Bridge No. ZILLAH-02) in Zillah, Washington. Both projects were submitted as part of the FFY 2023 Bridge Awards; however, only the Zillah Heights Bridge was selected for funding at that time.

Following continued coordination and project development, it has become clear that the Schooley Bridge presents a more immediate and viable opportunity for infrastructure investment within the City. It provides critical access for City and County residents, including emergency services and school routes, and serves as a vital connection to areas identified for future growth and development within both the City and Yakima County. Furthermore, its proximity to developable land positions it as a catalyst for residential expansion and economic opportunity, advantages not equally provided by the Zillah Heights Bridge. Replacing the Schooley Bridge remains the City's top infrastructure priority for bridge replacement.

While both the Zillah Heights Road Bridge and the Schooley Bridge would provide meaningful improvements to local infrastructure, redirecting funds to the Schooley Bridge would allow the City to advance a project that is ready for delivery and that serves a broader public benefit at this time. The City has expressed strong support for this reprogramming and is prepared to move forward with the Schooley Bridge project without delay.

As state legislators committed to ensuring public funds are directed where they provide the greatest benefit, we believe this reallocation would best serve the residents of Zillah and the surrounding region. We strongly urge Local Programs to approve this funding shift to ensure the City of Zillah can proceed with its most pressing infrastructure need.



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Please let us know what steps are required to initiate this reallocation. We are committed to working with WSDOT and the City of Zillah to ensure a smooth and timely transition of the funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nikki Torres".

Senator Nikki Torres
15th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curtis King".

Senator Curtis King
Ranking Member on Senate
Transportation
14th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith W. Goehner".

Senator Keith Goehner
Assistant Ranking on Senate
Transportation
12th Legislative District