



KENT CHAMBER
OF ♦ COMMERCE

Mayor Suzette Cooke
220 Fourth Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032

Dear Mayor Cooke,

The Kent Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the \$600,000 capital funding request put forward by the City of Kent to the State of Washington for the S. 228th St to Inter-urban Trail Connector Project. We believe this 1,800-foot-long multi-purpose lane will have significant economic development impact and bring much needed safety improvements to a highly trafficked corridor.

As you well know, 228th Street is a central freight corridor for truck traffic entering/leaving the Green River Valley, yet this area of 228th also serves a major regional bicycle commuter trail (Inter-urban Trail) that is of particularly high value to a cluster of outdoor recreation and bicycle manufacturing firms – including REI Inc.'s world headquarters and the Accell Group, which includes independent bicycle companies Raleigh Bicycle, Diamondback Bicycles and Seattle Bike Supply.

A connected link at 228th and the Inter-urban Trail will dramatically enhance safety for bicycle commuters and create a seamless commuting experience for employees of companies with rich bike-to-work cultures. This linkage would also help recreational and bicycle supply manufacturers with retaining and recruiting the types of employees they need. And, this 228th to trail connection would provide bicycle commuters with more opportunities to get out and be active and healthy. We see this as a win on several fronts.

Again, Kent Chamber of Commerce fully supports this funding request to the State of Washington and the work of the City of Kent on this project.

Best Regards,

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