

Conservation Organizations

The Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park is a major investment in open space conservation in Kitsap County. The PS2P follows the Sound to Olympics Trail through the park. Photo: Steve Durrant





Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park. Views of the Olympic Mountains are a feature of the Olympic Discovery Trail. Photo: Steve Durrant





Parks Department

1195 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton, WA 98311
Mailing address: 614 Division, MS-1, Port Orchard, WA 98366
Phone (360) 337-5350 • Fax (360) 337-5385
www.kitsapgov.com/parks

Alex Wisniewski, Director

February 25, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Letter of Support, Puget Sound to Pacific RAISE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Kitsap County Parks is an enthusiastic supporter of the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) project for the FY23 RAISE grant program. The PS2P proposal targets the development of a regional non-motorized, multi-modal trail that would link the west side of the Puget Sound to the Pacific that will provide both transportation and recreation opportunities. The PS2P project will conceptualize new trail routes, complete gaps in existing trails, and provide connections across counties, cities, and tribal lands.

The PS2P trail would also traverse through and connect multiple Kitsap County Parks, would provide for both active and passive recreation opportunities, and is in alignment with our mission where we are “committed to providing quality of life enhancing opportunities through the management of natural areas and specialized facilities.” The PS2P trail would also help to fulfill a near two-decade old community vision for a regional trail across Kitsap County that would provide a connection with Seattle (via ferry terminals) and with Jefferson County (via the Hood Canal Bridge).

Kitsap County Parks is a passionate supporter of community engagement with the outdoors and natural environment, and is committed to provide recreation opportunities to enhance physical and mental health. And the PS2P trail checks the boxes for all of these goals, and more. Kitsap County Parks strongly urges your consideration for the Puget Sound to Pacific grant application!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex W.', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alex Wisniewski, Director
Kitsap County Parks

February 23, 2023



Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am the current chair of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District. Bainbridge Island is in Puget Sound just west of Seattle. We support the Puget Sound to Pacific RAISE Grant Application, and hope that you will give it your approval.

Bainbridge Island citizens and our local government agencies are pursuing the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO), which will someday link to the Olympic Discovery Trail as part of the Great American Rail Trail from Bainbridge Island to the Pacific coast. It will cross through three of our parks, and will allow commuters, recreational cyclists, pedestrians, runners, and those using mobility assist devices to avoid use of busy highways. It will be a key part of the commuting corridors and recreational trails which link our neighborhoods, parks, schools and commercial centers together. It will help provide for community health and environmental improvements.

The Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District supports the PS2P grant application that will advance the completion of the STO and the Olympic Discovery Trail. This innovative regional project brings recreation, health and wellness benefits to citizens from Bainbridge Island to La Push, as well as to our visitors from all over.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

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

Jay C. Kinney
Chair, Board of Commissioners
Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation
District



February 24, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Bloedel Reserve is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. As a 140 acre non-profit public garden and forest preserve, the Reserve aspires to enrich peoples' lives by catalyzing meaningful connections to nature. Our mission pillars include horticulture and design, conservation and stewardship, creativity and inspiration, and health and well-being. We are committed to sustainability in multiple forms, including environmental, social, and economic. Our organization is the leading tourist attraction on Bainbridge Island, welcoming more than 80,000 guests per year and boosting the local economy in the process. In 2020 the Reserve was named one of the top ten finest public gardens in North America by USA Today.

Bloedel Reserve supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington. More pertinent to us at the Bloedel Reserve, the PS2P is slated to parallel SR 305 across Bainbridge Island, less than a mile from our entry.

Many of our annual guests arrive using all sorts of transportation modes. We've been fortunate with the local transit authority to partner on a low cost shuttle that transports guests to our front door. Many of our guests also arrive on non-motorized transport, and the Northwest is a leading

area for cyclists and walkers. This initiative would make non-motorized transportation to our site far easier and safer.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Bainbridge Island and Bloedel Reserve's communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E Moydell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a stylized "Moydell".

Edward Moydell
The Richard A. Brown President & CEO
Bloedel Reserve

emoydell@bloedelreserve.org



February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC. 20590

Subject: Great Peninsula Conservancy's Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write this letter in support of the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) Collaborative's application for funding through the FY23 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant program.

The PS2P Collaborative seeks RAISE funding to plan and design improvements addressing current gaps in the Sound to Olympics Trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail, including ecological restoration, community access, and safety. This "PS2P" Trail is the Western Washington component of the Great American Rail-Trail, providing access and opportunities for people from all communities to experience nature on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is the Kitsap Peninsula section of the PS2P, connecting the urban areas of greater Seattle with the natural beauty of the Olympic Peninsula to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

From our perspective as the regional land trust of the Kitsap Peninsula, the STO will serve to not only connect all people to nature, but will also set aside valuable open space that functions as important wildlife habitat. An ADA accessible trail that also creates a wildlife corridor is win for both people and nature.

Thank you for your consideration and support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nathan Daniel
Executive Director



Admiralty Audubon Society

East Jefferson County

PO Box 666

Port Townsend WA 98368

11 February 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Admiralty Audubon Society's Enthusiastic Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific
FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of the board and members of Admiralty Audubon Society to convey our enthusiastic support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application. This application seeks support to advance the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington State. Support is requested for planning purposes, to develop pathways to fill missing links; provide for community connections; and improve design, safety and ecological restoration to complete this visionary trail.

In crossing the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, the proposed trail extends between the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Olympic National Park, a World Heritage Site. These natural assets attract visitors from around the world and provide a foundational portion of our local economy.

While the natural beauty of this region has attracted high-end homes for retirees and telecommuters, median incomes provided by local jobs within rural Jefferson County remain well below the Washington State average. Attracting active transportation visitors would provide important new economic opportunities for our region. A continuous trail across this region would provide connectivity to expand the experience of this spectacular landscape via hiking and bicycling while minimizing emissions of greenhouse gases.

Admiralty Audubon Society was founded in 1977 as part of the successful effort to establish the Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge. This island is in the Strait of Juan de Fuca adjacent to our northern coastline and provides the majority of safe nesting areas for ground-nesting marine birds in the entire Puget Basin region. It is critical to local populations of such species as the Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet, and Pigeon Guillemot. Establishing the proposed wildlife corridor and continuous trail for hiking and biking for wildlife viewing builds on this legacy while minimizing impacts.

The proposed PS2P trail also links to and incorporates the Larry Scott Trail, a multiuse trail that in part utilizes the retired Milwaukee Railway route. This trail is not yet fully complete but the completed sections terminate in Port Townsend at the Kah Tai (qatáy) Lagoon Nature Park. This 76+ acre park includes the approximately 34 acre lagoon that remains of the original, tidally-flushed coastal lagoon. Admiralty Audubon Society adopted the park 22 years ago and has established native plants that have enhanced bird habitat, viewing opportunities and provides enhanced resiliency to climate change related stresses to both local urban wildlife and migratory bird species of the Pacific Flyway.

Importantly, Kah Tai Lagoon represents the southern terminus of a portage route used by Indigenous peoples for millennia to cross the Quimper Peninsula and avoid the treacherous currents at Point Wilson. Translated, Kah Tai means “portage” or “place where we meet.” To celebrate and acknowledge the heritage of the Indigenous peoples, Port Townsend community members have developed the Chetzemoka (čičməhan) Trail. This trail directs walkers and bikers to 18 locations within the City of Port Townsend of special importance to tribal history. Kah Tai Lagoon is one such location and Admiralty Audubon Society maintains a marker and bench in support of this effort. Passing this location, one is reminded of whose historic lands you are on and of their rich history.

In summary, development of this trail would 1) respect and honor Indigenous heritage, 2) support and develop further appreciation for wildlife and natural beauty while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, 3) promote active outdoor activities, and 4) enhance the economic opportunities of rural East Jefferson County. This application has our full and enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Jahnke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard A. Jahnke
President, Admiralty Audubon Society



February 2, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Kitsap Audubon Society's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Kitsap Audubon Society (KAS), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design improvements for the gaps, missing links, community connections, safety, and ecological restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

This "PS2P" Trail serves as the connecting thread of an "emerald necklace" at a regional landscape scale for habitat corridor where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is our Kitsap section of the PS2P, which is connecting with the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

KAS is celebrating 50 years of service this year to the community in Kitsap County, not only learning about birds, other wildlife, and native flora, but also acting to conserve and enhance open space as habitat. A remarkable example has been KAS leadership with the Kitsap Forest and Bay Coalition, which teamed with Kitsap County, Pope Resources (now part of Rayonier), the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, Forterra, and a host of environmental & outdoor user groups.

This united community initiative purchased 3,500 acres of industrial forest land for conversion to more diverse climate and habitat-friendly forest in what is now the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. And recently our community purchased 756 acres of timber rights to preclude future clear cut harvest. A mile of the recent timber rights purchase provides a 600 foot wide buffer of older trees, for example, along the Sound to Olympics Trail.

And, Kitsap Audubon was an active partner in the year long Steering Committee to create Kitsap Park Department's Master Plan for this Port Gamble Park. Guidelines developed call for re-purposing six miles of existing logging roads, which are now signed as the STO.

We at KAS also want to share with you the high value we place on inclusiveness, so that people of all ages and abilities, cultural heritage, and economic means can share the benefits of being in nature. Our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee is very much concerned with assuring that people with mobility challenges have facilities to make that possible. Thus we very much support the STO, and all of the PS2P to provide the surfaces that work for people using wheelchairs and other assistive devices, which are inherent to the shared-use path standard for such regional trails.

An example of our commitment was hosting Virginia Rose, Founder and President of Birdability as featured speaker at Audubon Washington's statewide annual meeting this past Spring.

We urge your full support for this PS2P RAISE grant application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation in nature for all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Willmott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Willmott, President
Kitsap Audubon Society



"Promoting Birding and Conservation as Community Educators, Volunteers, and Stewards"

P.O. Box 502 Sequim, WA 98382

February 9, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey
Avenue SE Washington DC, 20590

Subject: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design improvements for the gaps, missing links, community connections, safety, and ecological restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington State.

This "PS2P" Trail serves as the connecting thread of an "emerald necklace" at a regional landscape scale for a habitat corridor where people of every age and ability can experience, value, and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is the Kitsap section of the PS2P, which is connecting with our Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

This year, OPAS is celebrating our 50 years of service to our communities in Clallam County, Washington. We remain committed to not only learning and sharing our knowledge of birds, other wildlife, and native flora, but also to act to conserve and enhance natural lands. Since 1997 we have partnered with The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in the development and operation of the Dungeness River Nature Center.

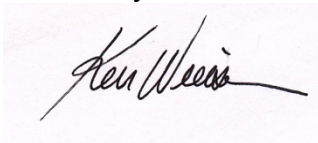
In the last 5 years, together with the Tribe, the Center's board and staff, and National Audubon, we've raised over eight million dollars to remodel and expand our education facilities and improve the access to and safety of the historic Dungeness River Railroad Bridge. This bridge is one of the earliest links in the ODT. Its last railroad use was in 1985. Since then, thousands of hours of local volunteer work and several construction contracts converted it into a key link in the public trail. So today it hosts over 200,000 annual crossings of walkers and bikers.

The trail passes through our Center's campus and we provide a welcoming stop, as well as connection to our nature trails, educational and recreation events, vehicle parking, and refreshments.

The ODT is not only a safe, off-road recreation trail, but we also regularly use it as our outdoor portal to the natural world. We lead bird walks from it, conduct bird migration counts along it, and use it to instruct our new field trip leaders on birding hotspots. The non-motorized trail provides the quiet and relaxed atmosphere essential to enjoy and learn the value of protecting and conserving our surroundings

We strongly support the completion of the development of the ODT from Port Townsend to La Push as our local link in the PS2P. We urge your full support for this PS2P RAISE grant application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation in nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Wiersema", is written over a light pink rectangular background.

Ken Wiersema
President

February 27, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Pete Buttigieg:

Audubon Washington is pleased to express our full support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE grant application to design and plan improvements for the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington. This trail serves as a connecting thread for a regional landscape scale habitat corridor, where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas.

As a field office of the National Audubon Society, our mission is to protect birds and the places they need by using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Our network of chapters engages people in learning about birds, caring for birds, and taking action to save birds and the places they need now and in the future. We focus our work on four strategies: Coasts, Climate, Working lands, and Bird-Friendly Communities. Our focus on Bird-Friendly Communities includes initiatives to increase access to the outdoors for all, regardless of ability.

The PS2P Trail will help to meet Audubon Washington's goals of promoting low carbon transportation options and green infrastructure that makes ecological gains. This will ultimately lead to more opportunities for people to engage with nature, which is crucial for our economic well-being, enjoyment, and ethical and spiritual benefits.

We strongly believe in the importance of inclusiveness and ensuring that people of all abilities can share the benefits of being in nature. Our commitment to this is exemplified by our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and our hosting of Virginia Rose, Founder and President of Birdability, as a featured speaker at our statewide annual meeting last Spring.

We support the PS2P RAISE grant application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation in nature for all. We urge your full support for this grant application and are excited to see the positive impacts that it will bring to our community and the environment.

Thank you for considering our letter of support.

Sincerely,



Deborah B. Jensen, PhD
Vice President and Executive Director
Audubon Washington



February 26, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Jefferson Land Trust], please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas and Bainbridge Island to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

In 2019, Jefferson Land Trust, North Olympic Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land commissioned a study of the value of Land conservation, including trail development, to the local economy. The value of the Olympic Discovery Trail to the economies of Clallam and Jefferson counties was significant in terms of tourism but also in terms of health benefits for local residents.

Jefferson Land Trust enthusiastically supports this application because the PS2P will be a continuous active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Jefferson Land Trust is a long-time supporter of the Olympic Discovery Trail, and is involved in providing land for the corridor, as well as other facilities essential to the trail. The land trust was founded in 1989 and has actively conserved and stewarded 17,000 acres on the peninsula. This includes working forest land, habitat, working farms, and other projects including a new 900-acre community forest which will come online in 2024.

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

Sincerely,

Richard Tucker

Executive Director
Jefferson Land Trust
1033 Lawrence Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 379-9501 ext 100
saveland.org

NORTH OLYMPIC Land Trust



Farms • Fish • Forests

602 E. Front St.
P.O. Box 2945 (mailing)
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-1815
NorthOlympicLandTrust.org
info@nolt.org

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North Olympic Land Trust
is accountable:



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

February 8, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing North Olympic Land Trust Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

North Olympic Land Trust is proud to support the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the farthest western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington. Completion of this project will be instrumental in finalizing this far western link for this vision to travel on bike or foot across the Olympic Peninsula, the State of Washington, and the entire United States of America.

The Land Trust is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. The existing Olympic Discovery Trail provides invaluable economic revitalization and conserves fantastic habitat corridors.

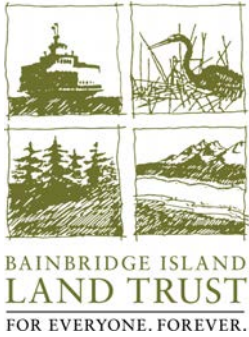
The Land Trust supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

North Olympic Land Trust is a community-based nonprofit with a mission to conserve the land and natural resources that continue to be the foundation of our culture, economy, and way of life. We serve the communities of Clallam County through active land conservation that include a focus on non-motorized transportation corridors.

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

Sincerely,

Tom Sanford
Executive Director



February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing the Bainbridge Island Land Trust's Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

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Cullen Brady
Executive Director

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Puget Sound to Pacific RAISE Grant Application which would provide federal funding for the planning and design of the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) and Olympic Discovery Trail. Founded in 1989, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust is the leading conservation organization on Bainbridge Island and has protected nearly 1,500 acres of wildlife habitat, forests, shorelines, and streams.

As a core partner in this landscape and watershed, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust holds conservation easements over several properties along and potentially containing the Sound to Olympics Trail alignment on Bainbridge Island. As we are committed to managing and stewarding our conservation lands to ensure no net loss of ecological values and services, we also aim to offer opportunities for visitors to connect with and learn about the importance of conservation lands.

One of these properties is Meigs Park and Farm, the Island's largest wetland area at nearly 100 acres and is a part of a larger connected conservation corridor from the Grand Forest to the East and Murden Cove to the west. Wetlands are a strategic conservation priority for us and are ecologically rich environments interconnected with our streams and Puget Sound.

Including restoration as a part of the long-term goal for this area of the Island will be critical. The potential biological lift possible within the Meigs Park complex is substantial. We are encouraged that the STO project could jumpstart the long-term restoration effort among community partners. This project will also increase opportunities for the community and users of the STO to access and connect with nature and learn about the importance of this wetland ecosystem first-hand.

Sincerely,

Cullen Brady
Executive Director

PO Box 10144
147 Finch Place, Suite 3
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

(206 84201216

bi-landtrust.org



Bainbridge GreenWays
221 Winslow Way West, Unit 101
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110



February 3, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Bainbridge GreenWays' Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Bainbridge GreenWays, a program of Sustainable Bainbridge on Bainbridge Island Washington, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety, and ecological improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

This "PS2P" Trail serves as the connecting thread of an "emerald necklace" at a regional landscape scale for habitat corridor where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is our Kitsap section of the PS2P, which is connecting with the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

Bainbridge GreenWays is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation on our Island. We see active transportation as having multiple benefits. As people get out of their cars to walk or bike to their destinations, they are lowering their carbon emissions, connecting better with their neighbors, bolstering our local economy, and enhancing their health.

Bainbridge GreenWays supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared-use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, cities, Tribal nations, and rural communities directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Bainbridge GreenWays is one of six sustainability programs under Sustainable Bainbridge, a non-profit on Bainbridge Island formed in 2006 with over 3,000 current members.

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

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee of Bainbridge GreenWays:
Susan Loftus, Barb Zimmer, Fran Korten



February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Forterra's Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Forterra NW, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design improvements for the gaps, missing links, community connections, safety and ecological restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

At Forterra, we think holistically to address the important connections between people, land and work--linking cities and rural towns, working lands and wild lands. Our effort is focused on the enhancement and sustainability of the lands and communities along our great natural corridors. In these corridors, we help facilitate land conservation, community engagement, economic development, and increased access to natural areas.

In Kitsap County, Forterra played a key role in the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project (KFBP), which won a Vision 2040 Award in 2015 from the Puget Sound Regional Council for its' success toward preserving thousands of acres of forest, wetlands and shoreline surrounding Port Gamble Bay in north Kitsap County.

The Sound to Olympics Trail was a major element of KFBP vision – connecting open space, parks, housing and businesses with active transportation corridors across Kitsap County.

Through a very successful campaign with our Coalition partners, 3,500 acres of underlying land was conserved forever, in what has become Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. And more recently in 2022, a successful community campaign assisted Kitsap County and Forterra in the purchase of 756 acres of timber rights to protect trees of high conservation, cultural and recreational benefits. This purchase protected 2.2 miles of mature trees along both sides of the Sound to Olympic Trail with 300-ft buffers.

The Sound to Olympics Trail section of the PS2P will connect with the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span the entire route between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

FORTERRA

LAND FOR GOOD

The PS2P Trail serves as the connecting thread of an “emerald necklace” at a regional landscape scale for habitat corridors where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas.

We at Forterra urge your full support for this PS2P RAISE grant application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation in nature for all.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Michelle Connor
B63BE6C6071A4E7...

Michelle Connor,
President and CEO





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Bob Ellis, Lifetime Educator and Cyclist,
Karl Forsgaard, Manager of Implementations, Thomson Reuters;
Alpine Lakes Protection Society
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Hillary Franz (X), Commissioner of Public Lands, WA State Dept. of
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Laura Hoffman, Owner, Copper Ridge Farm; Microsoft
Katherine Hollis, Eastrail Partners
Warren Jimenez (X), Director, King County Parks
Cora Johnson (*), Geotechnical Engineer, GeoEngineers, Inc
Andrew Kenefick, Retired, Senior Legal Counsel, Waste Management
of Washington, Inc
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
Elizabeth Lunney (*), Former Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Interim Executive Director
Bob Manelski, Retired, Senior Director, 787 Program, Boeing
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
David Patton, Northwest Area Director, The Trust for Public Land
Kizz Prusia, Project Associate, Triangle Associates
Charles Raines, Director Cascade Checkerboard Project, Sierra Club,
Washington State Chapter
Janet Ray, Retired, Asst VP, Corporate Affairs and Publishing,
AAA Washington
Jim Reinhardtsen (*), President, Laird Norton Properties
Vik Sahney, Board VP, E&I Committee Chair, The Mountaineers
Meredith Shank, Social Venture Partners
Steve Shesteg, Director, Environmental Sustainability,
The Boeing Company
Jill Simmons, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association
Al Smith, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
David Sturtevant, Retired, Vice President CH2M HILL
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

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

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

Secretary
Sharon Linton (*), Marketing Consultant, SL Connects

Treasurer, Operations Committee Chair
Amanda O'Rourke (*), CPA, Partner, Greenwood Ohlund & Co.

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

January 20th, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY22 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, the coordinating entity of the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area (Greenway NHA), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY22 RAISE application. This project will design ways to fill the gaps and missing links for connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (Greenway Trust) is committed to providing opportunities for safe, active transportation in communities across the region. We support a comprehensive transportation system within the state with connected regional trails and pedestrian walkways in order to improve transportation options, 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 Greenway Trust supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. As an integral part to the cross-state trail system, this multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns, and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington, providing opportunities for all ages and abilities, a major step forward in equitable access for all.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails in Puget Sound communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jon Hoekstra
Executive Director, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust



ASLA
WASHINGTON

February 3, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

**Re: Expressing Washington State Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Can you imagine riding across the country? How about across Washington, or the whole Olympic Peninsula? Maybe walking safely across your community? I can and on behalf of Washington State Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

WASLA is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. Landscape architecture is the art and science of analysis, planning, design, management, preservation, and rehabilitation of the land. Practitioners share a commitment of achieving a balance between preservation, use, and management of the country's resources. It is the goal of every landscape architect to improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of the natural and built environment and thereby the people who inhabit and live in these spaces.

WASLA supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

WASLA is made up of 400 members who all contribute to the design of the public realm. Our work focuses on creating accessible spaces that support communities needs and build towards a more sustainable future. Our work understands how people navigate and use public spaces at all scales, from streets, to neighborhoods, to cities.

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

Sincerely,

Nicholas Zurlini, ASLA
WASLA President

February 13th, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Seattle Parks Foundation Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Over the last two summers Seattle has had some of the highest temperatures on record and hundreds of people in Washington state died. We know that climate change is continuing will continue to worsen and one of the most important approaches to addressing it is transitioning away from a fossil fuel vehicle transportation network. In Washington state, human powered transportation is highly valued, and we are thankful to have USDOT investment for our safe streets in Seattle. The challenge we now face is a need for a full network to get people to work and through their communities to our cities.

On behalf of Seattle Parks Foundation, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

At Seattle Parks Foundation's we partner with community to champion thriving and equitable parks and public spaces. We have over 100 community led projects in the greater Puget Sound region and have raised over \$500M in public and private funding over the last 20 years to create active and healthy communities, equitable access to public spaces, and local climate solutions. Increasing our trail network will ensure our entire Puget Sound region has sustainable access to economic centers such as Seattle, Olympia and Tacoma. This network will also help advance our climate goals in the state of Washington by linking together critical gaps that force our community into their vehicles. We are committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region.

Seattle Parks Foundation supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

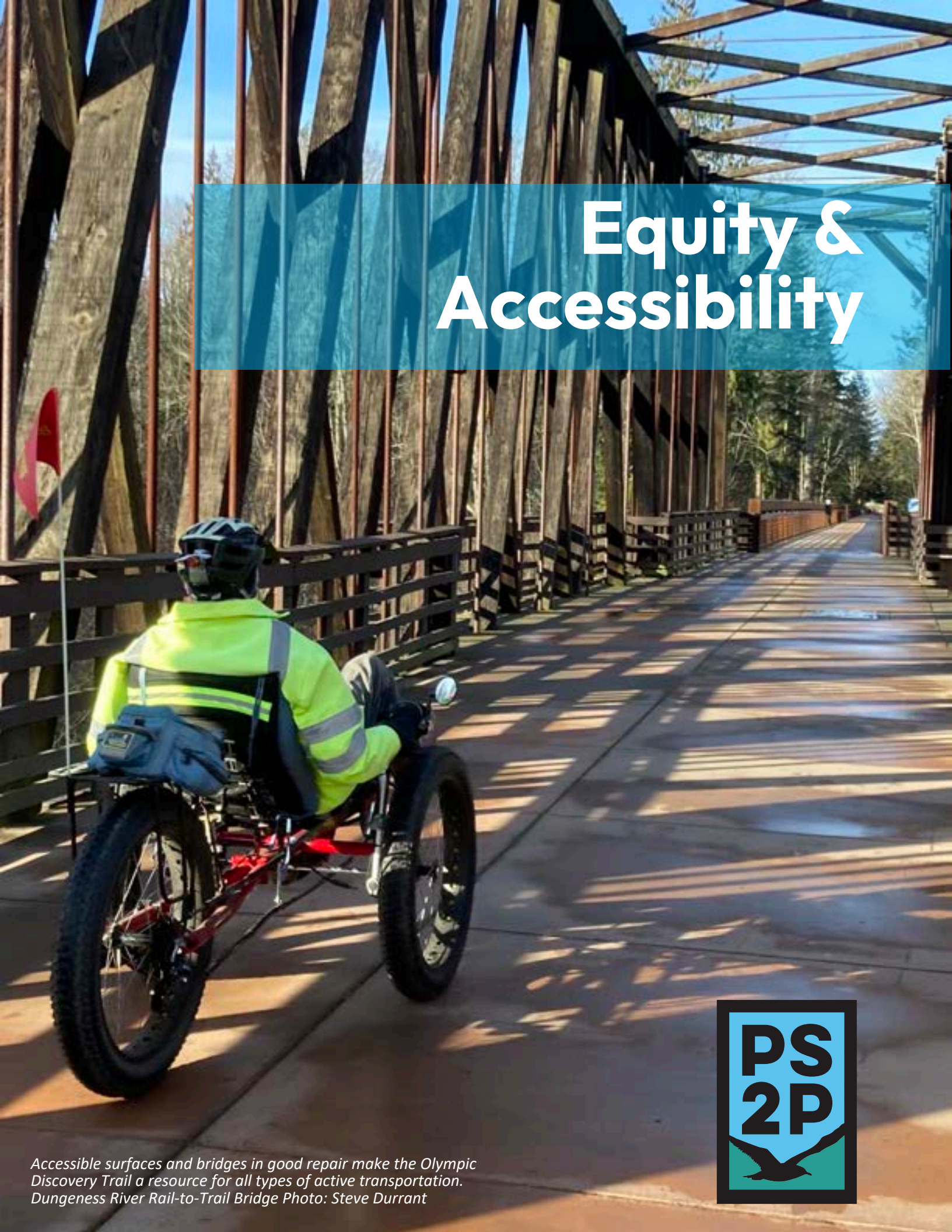
Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Seattle communities and beyond.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Bear
President and CEO
Seattle Parks Foundation

Equity & Accessibility



*Accessible surfaces and bridges in good repair make the Olympic Discovery Trail a resource for all types of active transportation.
Dungeness River Rail-to-Trail Bridge Photo: Steve Durrant*





Ian's Ride arriving in Port Townsend on the Larry Scott / Olympic Discovery Trail on the Sea-to-Sound Ride. Founder, Ian Macay holds events with friends of all ages and abilities using power chairs & other wheeled devices. Photo: Don Willott





02.13.23

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Peace Peloton's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Peace Peloton, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Peace Peloton supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington. Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE will also provide more access to underserved communities to utilize outdoor spaces, promoting healthier lifestyles and vibrant communities.

We launched in June of 2020 offering access to resources that stimulate growth for businesses with Black owners. Our [Fresh Air](#) program invites cyclists, of all levels, out biking to businesses with Black owners. We typically design the routes to explore areas of historical Black significance to educate and celebrate Black achievement and have grown from an initial membership of 50 to well over 2,000 across the Pacific Northwest. We remain committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region and that aim would be significantly added with PS2P.

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

Sincerely,

Reginald 'Doc' Wilson

Doc Wilson
Executive Director
Peace Peloton
www.peacepeloton.com
doc@peacepeloton.com
206.488.5298

Peace Peloton is a registered 501c(3) nonprofit, based in Seattle, Washington

Access | Community | Fun

2/20/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Sequim Wheelers -Adaptive Bike Program Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Sequim Wheelers is an adaptive bike program serving elderly folks, and/ or people with physical challenges on the Olympic Peninsula.

On behalf of Sequim Wheelers, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Sequim Wheelers is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. We are providing adaptive bike rides for elderly folks, and/ or folks with mobility difficulties. We have 5 different adaptive bikes (wheelchair bike, side by side tandem, trishaw) – the different bikes offer different opportunities for a multiple of different physical needs. We will be happy to facilitate more adaptive bikes programs along the PS2P.

The PS2P is for everyone, so is biking, and we are advocates for folks with mobility difficulties. Our adaptive bike rides are for everyone that can't ride a regular bike by themselves anymore, our rides are free of charge, and a service that promotes inclusion. The expansion of the trail will allow more folks (locally and nationwide) to get outside, ride, walk, run – a goal that is wonderful, and a healthy approach to body and mind.

Sequim Wheelers supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Sequim Wheelers - Adaptive Bike Program communities and beyond.



Sincerely, Nicole Lepping
Board Member Sequim Wheelers
Sequim Wheelers – An Adaptive Bike Program
Non Profit 501(c)3 sequimwheelers@yahoo.com
PO Box 276, 98382 Carlsborg, WA (Sequim)
www.sequimwheelers.com, 360 591 3200



February 5, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Endorsement and Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific's FY23 RAISE application

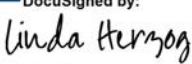
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Count Me In for Quilcene (CMIQ) eagerly supports the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) proposal for FY23 RAISE grant support. CMIQ is a 12-year-old 501(c)(3) nonprofit operating in Jefferson County WA and dedicated to enhancing and supporting the well-being of South County families and businesses. In mid-2022 CMIQ received a grant from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to design and install a walking/biking path punctuated with historical markers, stretching from the village store at the north end of the town, to the Quilcene Bay swim beach at the south end. This will be the first opportunity for walkers, runners and bicyclers to traverse the entire town at a safe distance from logging trucks, cars, and vacationing RVers speeding along US Scenic Highway 101 which functions as the town's "main street". Ultimately we can envision a connection northward to Discovery Bay and on to meet up with the Olympic Discovery Trail and the Pacific Ocean.

With PS2P able to design the connections and fill the gaps across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, the benefit will accrue not only to our own rural communities, but to urbanites east of us who have limited access to the fresh air and natural beauty of our wild environment.

We encourage you to take a close look at this opportunity to support skilled and dedicated trail enthusiasts in designing ways to complete The Great American Rail Trail across western Washington State. So much has been done so far. The full connection is within reach, and along with it better public health, environmental protection, and community cohesion!

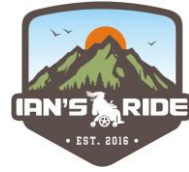
Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A9A96490B74B43D...

Linda A Herzog, Vice President
Count Me In for Quilcene
PO Box 141, Quilcene WA 98376



Making the Outdoors Accessible



February 7, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Ian's Ride's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Ian's Ride, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Ian's Ride focuses on improving and promoting outdoor accessibility for those with mobility impairments. This is accomplished by offering year-round group trail rides for individuals who use mobility aids. We also consult with local agencies on how to maximize the accessibility of outdoor spaces. Finally, we demonstrate that people with disabilities are an important user group of outdoor accessible infrastructure.

Our flagship event is called Sea to Sound. It offers people of all abilities and modes of transport a chance to travel 75 miles over three days along the iconic Olympic Discovery Trail. It's a unique opportunity for people in the disability community to experience the outdoors in a fully supported way. Last year was the fourth year of the event and we had over 100 participants and one third had mobility impairments. The interactions and experiences individuals take home from these events are transformative and positive for the community.

The suggested route for the PS2P is an ideal way to provide access for individuals who utilize wheelchairs to safely travel between the greater Seattle area to Bainbridge Island and on to the Olympic Peninsula. In 2018 our founder, a C3 quadriplegic took a wheelchair from Idaho to Port Angeles to demonstrate the need for more accessible

infrastructure. Many other wheelchair users joined along the way. It was very challenging finding a safe route for a wheelchair to travel between Seattle and Port Angeles. We were forced onto the side of highways and busy roads. This proposed infrastructure would allow all users to travel this route in a safe way.

Outdoor recreation can be difficult for people who rely on mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers, scooters and other devices to navigate the world. A quiet place to explore nature in a safe way is highly sought out but often difficult to find. The large community of wheelchair users in the Puget Sound region would greatly benefit from a complete trail system from the Puget Sound to the Pacific. This ribbon of trail would be easily accessible for a vast number of adapted users.

Multiuse trails, like the proposed PS2P, are extremely important for the disability community. Rail trails by their very nature are usually accessible. These throughways allow for outdoor recreation, safe commuting, access to nature and social opportunities. They are also exemplary ways to unite and connect communities. Utilizing a common infrastructure for commuting or recreation creates opportunities for interactions with people of all abilities and demographics.

This past September, our founder and Executive Director had the opportunity to travel nearly 500 miles of the easternmost section of the Great American Rail Trail. It was a huge success and a great example of adaptive infrastructure. Having a complete trail that connects the East and West Coast of our country would be a huge accomplishment for our nation. A large chunk of the project could be accomplished with the approval of this application.

We urge your full support for this PS2P RAISE grant application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation through nature for all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Smith-Irwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Smith-Irwin, President

Ian's Ride



February 16th, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Owen's Playground Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Owen's Playground project, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design improvements for the gaps, missing links, community connections, safety, and ecological restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

This "PS2P" Trail serves as the connecting thread of an "emerald necklace" at a regional landscape scale for habitat corridor where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is our Kitsap section of the PS2P, which is connecting with the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

Owen's Playground, a project I spearheaded along with generous support from my greater community, is a nature-inspired, inclusive, all-ages play space on Bainbridge Island in Washington State. This project in memory of my son, who passed in October 2013 and who relied exclusively on a wheelchair for mobility, was one of the first of its kind in the country. As Owen's mother and an avid hiker, birder, backcountry enthusiast, trail runner, accessibility for the outdoors is an issue that I am deeply passionate about.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding in support of the Puget Sound to Pacific Trail. This Puget Sound gem is an incredible asset for our regional community as well as for visitors from across the country and across the globe.

Best regards,

Stacy Marshall
Owen's Mom
Founder, Owen's Playground

Healthcare Housing & Education



The Olympic Discovery Trail on a rural state highway near Joyce, WA. Puget Sound to Pacific improvements to on-road segments will encourage more people to use active transportation more often. Photo: Steve Durrant



Daily exercise improves health and well being. Footrace on the Larry Scott Trail segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail near Port Townsend. Photo: Don Willott





A Community Land Trust

February 13, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Housing Resources Bainbridge Expression of Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Housing Resources Bainbridge, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

As a community land trust, Housing Resources Bainbridge develops and manages permanently affordable homes, for rent and sale, and stewards these resources and land for community good.

The cost of living on Bainbridge is out of reach for too many families who are essential to the fabric of our community. Expenses related to transportation – access to service centers, schools, work, and transportation hubs such as the ferry terminal – compound the economic stressors of high housing costs.

The Sound to Olympics Trail is an essential segment of the planned sustainable transportation corridor that will run the length of Bainbridge Island. The STO and Olympic Discovery Trail, once completed will provide essential infrastructure to citizens from Bainbridge Island to La Push. Here, the need for safe, equitable transportation is urgent for many islanders. The trail will connect individuals of all ages and abilities to the Winslow core, the ferry, to schools, and the recreation opportunities that improve physical and social health.

By making it possible for people of diverse backgrounds and incomes to live on Bainbridge, Housing Resources Bainbridge is building a more equitable, inclusive, and healthy community. We support the development of safe, convenient, and affordable transit connections, including the Sound to Olympics Trail, as an important contribution to a more livable community, benefiting families across the income spectrum.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Phedra Elliott'.

Phedra Elliott
Executive Director



February 24, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Friends of the Farms, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Sound to Olympics Trail and the Olympic Discovery Trail making up the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The Friends of the Farms' mission is to ensure the future of local farming and build a healthier community through a resilient and equitable food ecosystem. Friends of the Farms is committed to improving the overall environmental, social, and economic health of Bainbridge Island by:

- Creating the desirable visual presence of a rural community
- Providing cultural and economic diversity
- Preserving our island's agricultural and ethnic heritage
- Ensuring food security
- Protecting our environment

We recently completed our award winning reHOME project which constructed sustainable homes for the farm interns: the next generation of farm stewards and active local food producers.

Friends of the Farms supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities on Bainbridge Island and our neighboring tribe, towns and counties. This multi-use trail project will allow our farm interns to travel sustainably and affordably to nearby service centers, and for community members and visitors to come to our public farmland and purchase local produce.

250 Madrona Way NE, Suite 110B
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
www.friendsofthefarms.org



Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the connectivity to farmlands, with the quality of life, social and transportation benefits of trails to our communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Heather H. Burger

Heather H. Burger
Executive Director
Friends of the Farms

250 Madrona Way NE, Suite 110B
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
www.friendsofthefarms.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robert Cromwell
Mark Emerson
Christina Hulet
Sanjay Pal
Lynn Smith



**BAINBRIDGE
ISLAND**
SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 303

SUPERINTENDENT
Peter Bang-Knudsen

STRONG MINDS, STRONG HEARTS, STRONG COMMUNITY

February 14, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Bainbridge island School District Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Bainbridge Island School District, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

The Bainbridge Island School District is committed providing exceptional education to the K-12th grade students on Bainbridge Island, Washington. We educate over 3600 students in seven schools. Five of those schools are less than a third of a mile from the planned Sound to Olympics Trail, included in the Puget Sound to Pacific Projects, with strong connecting path opportunities. A sixth school is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. We encourage opportunities for active transportation from neighborhoods to our schools, and urge support for safe routes to school so as to provide our students greater accessibility, autonomy, and exercise as well as to reduce the carbon footprint created by a high number of family cars delivering students to their schools.

The Bainbridge Island School District supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path that will help foster safe routes to schools. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route for young people, providing multi-modal route from homes and neighborhoods to schools and also to after school activities. Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Bainbridge Island and our neighboring communities.

Sincerely,

Peter Bang-Knudsen
Superintendent

February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Olympic Medical Center's Solid Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Clallam County Public Hospital District No. 2 (DBA Olympic Medical Center), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic Peninsula to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

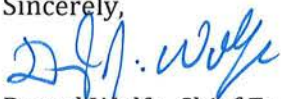
Olympic Medical Center is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. Not only is the trail something our employees and providers enjoy, it is a significant attraction to potential recruits who are looking for a certain quality of life afforded by living on the North Olympic Peninsula. Our trail system is also accessible, which is a key component to the health of our patients and community as they look for affordable and safe physical activities.

Olympic Medical Center supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative continuous active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Olympic Medical Center serves more than 75,000 people of Clallam County, offering hospital and clinic-based health care, along with a number of support services. We employ more than 1,650 people – many who live here because of the outdoor activities offered. Very often, a provider or an employee chooses to come and work for Olympic Medical Center because of our trails, our waters, and our mountains. Our workforce loves to play here and expanding the trail to connect communities is certainly another draw.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to the Clallam and Jefferson County communities and beyond.

Sincerely,



Darryl Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer
Olympic Medical Center

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

February 10, 2023

Re: Expressing North Olympic Healthcare Network's Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Imagine riding your bicycle across the country, across Washington, or the entire Olympic Peninsula enjoying the scenery, fresh air, and the benefits of healthy activity. Imagine the opportunity to walk or jog safely in your community without dodging vehicles. As CEO of an organization committed to promoting health, I do and on behalf of North Olympic Healthcare Network, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

North Olympic Healthcare Network is committed to promoting opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. We are a Federally Qualified Community Health Center that serves over 16,000 patients (including the low-income and underserved) in our rural community. Our mission is to provide patient-centered, quality-driven, whole-person healthcare services that are accessible to everyone in the community. Our vision is to have a healthy, thriving, inclusive community that is sustained through effective and collaborative leadership. We know that opportunities to exercise and recreate outdoors correlate with better physical and mental health outcomes.

North Olympic Healthcare Network supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington. Further, this project provides opportunities for healthy activity that are not dependent upon income or specialized equipment. By its nature, this project inherently promotes equity and accessibility to healthy recreation and support of body, mind, and spirit regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to North Olympic Healthcare Network's communities and beyond.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Maxwell, MD

Chief Executive Officer, North Olympic Healthcare Network



Community Supported Outpatient Care for East Jefferson County Children, Adolescents, Adults and Older Adults-24 Hour Crisis
PO Box 565 • 884 W. Park Avenue • Port Townsend, WA 98368
Safe Harbor Treatment Program
686 Lake Street, Suite 100 Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: 360-385-3866 • Fax: 360-379-7288

February 3, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Discovery Behavioral Healthcare's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific
FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of DBH, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P)
FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections, and safety
improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail (GART) on the Olympic Peninsula in
Western Washington.

DBH is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the
region. As the community mental health center physical well being is an important part of
recovery. In fact we have run outdoor therapeutic groups and have enhanced trails would be
welcomed.

DBH supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation
corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three
counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns
and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington as well.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health,
recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to East Jefferson
County and communities and beyond. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jim Novelli, MEd
Chief Executive Officer
Discovery Behavioral Healthcare

February 8, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Jefferson Healthcare Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Jefferson Healthcare, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections, and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail (GART) on the Olympic Peninsula in Western Washington.

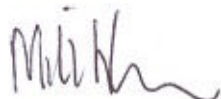
Jefferson Healthcare is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. True health is about more than just the absence of sickness and disease, it's about the vitality of our lives. By facilitating opportunities for our community to enjoy the resources of our region we can impact their lives.

Jefferson Healthcare supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared-use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns, and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington as well.

Jefferson Healthcare is committed to the health of Jefferson County. We invest our time and resources into the physical, social, and economic health of our region.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Jefferson County communities and beyond. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Mike Glenn, CEO

Trails Outdoors & Cycling



The National Park Service and Clallam County recently developed the Spruce Railroad Trail, a segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail on Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park. Photo: Steve Durrant





Clallam County and Olympic National Park collaborated to recommission two tunnels on the Spruce Railroad Trail segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail on Lake Crescent. Photo: John Gussman



leafline trails coalition

Connecting Trails, Connecting Communities

February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Leafline Trails Coalition's Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of [Leafline Trails Coalition](#), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections, and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Washington.

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 Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, and King counties in the Central Puget Sound region. Today, this network is 56% complete.

This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington. Studies have shown that improving access to trails could help close the health gap in Washington; trails in Washington provide \$5.9 billion in environmental benefits per year; trails contribute more than \$8.2 billion to Washington's economy and support more than 81,000 jobs every year; and completing trails results in fewer miles traveled by car each year.

The PS2P is key to unlocking safe access to destinations by biking, walking, and rolling, as it connects communities in three counties with a safe, non-motorized shared use path. Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to central Puget Sound and beyond.

Sincerely,



Claire Martini (Project Manager, Leafline Trails Coalition)





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)

February 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY22 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Cascade Bicycle Club, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PSTP) FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Cascade Bicycle Club is the nation's largest bicycling nonprofit, with over 10,000 members across Washington State. We are committed to ensuring everyone – regardless of age, ability or background – can get around safely and comfortably by bike. We teach the joys of cycling and advocate for safe places to ride for both transportation and recreation. Protected, separated trails that are part of continuous networks support better biking. Access to trails supports improved community health outcomes. Trails are also important economic development tools, especially in rural communities. That's why we support this application. The PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

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

Sincerely,

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

Lee Lambert
Executive Director
Cascade Bicycle Club



Growing Bicycling Statewide

7787 62nd Avenue NE #MB-2, Seattle, WA 98115-8155

P (206) 224-9252 • www.wabikes.org • info@wabikes.org

[f /BikeWA](#) [t @WAbikes](#) [i @WAbikes](#)

February 17, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY22 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Washington Bikes, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PSTP) FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Washington Bikes advocates for laws and investments that make biking safe and accessible for all individuals across Washington. We know that trails networks are core to realizing our stated vision. We fully support completion of the Great American Rail Trail. Much of the Washington State route of the GART is already complete, and this application supports completion of a key gap in the network. To be clear: we support the trail not in order to connect lines on a map, but in order to benefit the communities through which the trail will run. Access to trails supports improved community health outcomes. Trails are also important economic development tools, especially in rural communities.

The PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicky Clarke", with a horizontal line underneath.

Vicky Clarke
Policy Director
Washington Bikes

February 20, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to support the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design improvements for the gaps, missing links, community connections, safety, and ecological restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail (GART) in Western Washington.

I use a power wheelchair, and the GART has the potential to greatly expand the places I can go wheelchair hiking.

I live on Bainbridge Island, where the first mile of the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) has been constructed, and I use this trail on an almost daily basis. In addition to providing an efficient way to get where I need to go, it allows me an experience of nature that otherwise would be significantly more difficult to access. There is a significant body of research on the mental and physical health benefits of experiencing nature, but for too many people who use mobility devices, getting to do this is an ongoing challenge.

I have worked on the planning committees for parts of the STO, and have been impressed by the willingness of the planning professionals to learn about what my wheelchair can and can't do. Too often, I fear, trails are planned without the input of the people who may have the most difficulty accessing them. The STO is different, and I hope that the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FT23 RAISE application can be funded, so that the planning and design can move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Cutting". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Marsha Cutting

February 22, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington DC, 20590

Re: Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am reaching out to you to express strong support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

I grew up on Bainbridge Island, a ferry ride from downtown Seattle, where I developed a passion for biking, exploring the quiet roads and trails of the island. That passion eventually led me to professional cycling. For over a decade I have raced at the top level of the sport, representing the U.S. at multiple world championships. I now live with my wife and two daughters just a quarter mile from the home I grew up in on the Island. As a parent, I realize that my children cannot safely bike the same areas where I still train. This once rural area, from Bainbridge Island to the Pacific, is absorbing growth at a staggering rate. Recent development is filling a corridor from the shores of Bainbridge, a boat ride from Seattle, to La Push – with the Salish Sea water ways and Olympic Mountains topography restricting growth to a string of residential areas. The population on our island is now double what it was when I was born. Roads designed for rural communities are not adequately accommodating the number of cars they now support, let alone safe and child-friendly cycling. Bikes allow young people to discover autonomy, connect socially and environmentally with their communities, travel to school, passion activities and town centers. I advocate for trails such as the Sound to Olympic Trails because I have seen the effects of similar trails, both in other areas of the U.S. and abroad. Not only do trails like the PS2P offer community members an alternative, safe, healthy and sustainable mode of transportation, they can help bolster the local economies of the all the areas they connect. Gravel cycling has exploded in recent years and areas with substantial trails, like the PS2P, have become destinations for riders from all around the country and beyond. This trail will be a major draw without further burdening the local infrastructure along its route.

I support this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation and recreation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the island where I live and my children and their friends will grow up – hopefully learning to live with a lower carbon footprint than their parents and grandparents' generations - but also to the counties, towns and Tribal nations along the route, with connectivity all the way to Washington DC. Trails are only as good as their connectivity and establishing a safe off-road trail route that crosses the nation may have more sustaining impact than a trip to the moon. More humble but truly innovative.

Please consider full support for funding critical planning projects so the Sound to Olympics and Olympic Discovery Trails may be fully completed so that my children and their cohorts throughout the region may enjoy the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of these trails.

Sincerely,

Kiel Reijnen



The Broken Spoke
630 Water Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 379-1295
www.thebrokenspokept.com

2/21/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing The Broken Spoke's Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The Broken Spoke, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic Peninsula to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The Broken Spoke is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. As a bicycle shop on the Olympic Peninsula, we supply all cyclists with their cycling needs. We have found a majority of our tourists visiting the Peninsula visit the Olympic Discovery Trail. Over the 13 years our business has been open, the trail patronage users has been increasing. We saw a big increase of usage over the Covid Pandemic, we anticipate these users will continue to maintain and increase.

The Broken Spoke supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative continuous active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to The Broken Spoke's cycling communities and beyond.

Sincerely,
Nicole Sexton
Nicole Sexton
Co- Owner of The Broken Spoke



P.T.CYCLERY
252 Tyler Street
Port Townsend WA 98368

February 21, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing P. T. Cyclery Full Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of P. T. Cyclery, Port Townsend, Washington, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic Peninsula. It is important to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

P. T. Cyclery is committed to providing fun, safe bicycling opportunities for active transportation in communities across the Olympic Peninsula from Bainbridge to LaPush. PT Cyclery promotes cycling as a carbon neutral healthy lifestyle and encourages collaborative cycling connectivity.

P.T. Cyclery supports this application because the community of Port Tonwsend is not currently connected to the existing the PS2P trails. It is imperative to complete safe, non-motorized shared use path to connecting communities in three counties. Development of the missing multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington and tourism.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the cycling safety, community development, recreational opportunities and carbon neutral transportation benefits of trails to Olympic Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Bob Chung - P.T. CYCLERY



February 24, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Night Owl Cycling LLC, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) FY23 RAISE application to plan and design improvements for the gaps, missing links, community connections, safety, and ecological restoration to complete the cross-nation Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

This "PS2P" Trail serves as the connecting thread of an "emerald necklace" at a regional landscape scale for habitat corridor where people of all ages and abilities can experience, value and enhance our natural environment across the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The Sound to Olympics Trail (STO) is our Kitsap section of the PS2P, which is connecting with the Olympic Discovery Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties to span between Seattle via Washington State Ferries, across Bainbridge Island and the Hood Canal Bridge, to the Pacific Ocean at La Push.

Night Owl Cycling is the "local bike shop". We are leaders in Active Outdoor events and are building a private trail system on our 122 acres of forestry land in Kingston, WA. We are dedicated to our community, encouraging outdoor recreation and fitness, preservation and creation of trail systems at our local parks, and environmental restoration. Owner Heidi Campo serves on the North Kitsap Trails Association nonprofit board and husband co-owner Kelly Campo serves as co-chair of the Port Gamble Stewardship Committee, trails committee, and is a member of the nonprofit board Friends of Port Gamble Forest.

Our united community, working together with local and state organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals purchased 3,500 acres of industrial forest land for conversion to more diverse climate and habitat-friendly forest in what is now the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. And recently our community purchased 756 acres of timber rights to preclude future clear cut harvest. A mile of the recent timber rights purchase provides a 600 foot wide buffer of older trees, for example, along the Sound to Olympics Trail.

Night Owl Cycling wants to see the STO provide people in our community the ability to walk, bike, hike, and connect with nature. The guidelines developed call for re-purposing six miles of existing logging roads, which are now signed as the STO. These STO and PS2P will provide surfaces that work for people using wheelchairs and other assistive devices, which are inherent to the shared-use path standard for such regional trails.

We urge your full support for this PS2P RAISE grant application to provide safe and inclusive active transportation in nature for all. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heidi & Kelly Campo

Night Owl Cycling LLC
32065 Epic PL NE
Kingston, WA 98346
360-633-6710
nightowlcycling.com

Pedego Sequim (not a co-applicant)
213 E Washington Street
Sequim, WA 98382

2-23-23

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Pedego Sequim Solid Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Pedego Sequim, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic Peninsula to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Pedego Sequim is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region of the Olympic Peninsula in Clallam County. We sell and service electric bicycles and focus on helping people ride, improve health and discover the amazing wilderness in which we live. All of our staff, along with our thousand of customers have spent years and thousands of miles enjoying the benefits of the Olympic Discovery Trail and beyond.

Pedego Sequim supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative continuous active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Pedego Sequim opened in September of 2018 and has grown to be one of the top dealers for Pedego Electric Bike Company in the US. Our dedication to an aging demographic, wanting to find fitness and fun, paired with the availability and proximity to the Olympic Discovery Trail is the key to our growth and success. We have created over a thousand new cyclists enjoying the benefits of our great sport and the Olympic Discovery Trail.

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

Sincerely,

Garth J. Schmeck
Owner - Pedego Sequim



2/23/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Sound Bikes & Kayaks' Solid Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Sound Bikes & Kayaks, Inc. ("SBK"), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic Peninsula to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

SBK is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. The growth of our 4,000+ customer base and greater cycling community is tied directly to the Great American Rail-Trail system passing through our area. It brings in cycling commerce, encourages bike transportation, and is the foundation for promoting sustainable and healthy activities for our next generation.

SBK supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative continuous active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

100% of our customer base and greater cycling community use this trail – for recreation, commuting, and as a safe place to teach their children how to ride bikes. The only limitation is gaps in the trail (forcing users onto roads) and scarcity of community connections (forcing too many users to drive to trailheads). Let's finish it!

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to SBK's communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Treaccar", is written over a white background.

Troy Treaccar
Owner, Sound Bikes & Kayaks, Inc.
120 E Front Street, Port Angeles WA 98362
Email: sbkpawa@gmail.com Ph: 360-457-1240

Bainbridge Island Cycle, dba B.I.Cycle Shop

February 25, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: B.I.Cycle Shop's Full Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing this letter to seek your support of the "PS2P RAISE" application so that non-motorized accessibility to the abundant natural beauty and inviting communities here on the west side of Puget Sound can be shared with all who wish to visit.

I've been fortunate to operate a bicycle shop on Bainbridge Island, Washington in Kitsap County since the late 80's after moving to the Northwest from New York City with my wife and 2 young daughters. The magnificence of the Puget Sound area grabbed us and we've never looked back.

As wonderful as this geographical locale is, it is not easily accessible except for the privileged who have a motor vehicle at their disposal, or those willing to risk riding bikes on roads that were never designed to be "shared". We are a nation of "car culture" and our transportation infrastructure has been geared that way. The most often cited reason for not riding a bicycle is that most people don't feel safe when riding with motorized traffic. The preponderance of distracted drivers on their mobile devices over the last decade has exploded and the consequences are disastrous. We're on the front lines and see the results far too often.

The Puget Sound to Pacific (PS2P) trail is the vision to connect the urban Puget Sound region with non-motorized access to the majestic Olympic peninsula and Pacific coast. The continuing expansion of the Sound to Olympic (STO) trail will provide connectivity for all from the urban, east side of the Sound, to the Olympic peninsula's "Olympic Discovery" trail which has been a great environmental and economic asset to the through communities it serves.

As a 30+ year bicycle shop business owner, I've seen the transformation of bicycling in the U.S. from being an elite, male dominated activity to now include more every day usage by a larger cross section of people than ever before. Families hopping on cargo bikes to get to school and do their grocery shopping without using a car is more common and aspired towards. Rails to Trails networks across the country have set the bar for accessibility to experiences that most can dream of doing. When COVID created havoc in our lives, it became clear that being outdoors kept people sane and re-introduced them to their bicycles as something more than a toy. Many countries around the world have known this to be true for a long time.

Please consider supporting this application and plan some time to explore our area on the trail sections already been completed here on the "other" side of Puget Sound.

I'll leave you with the following quotes that are fairly well know to those who ride a bicycle:

The bicycle is the most efficient form of human transportation.

The bicycle is a simple solution to some of the world's most complicated problems.

The bicycle can combat climate change, ease urban congestion, and build human fitness. It can bring us together, yet allows us to escape.

And it takes us places we would never see any other way.

Sincerely,

Tom Clune

Owner
B.I.Cycle Shop
124 Bjune Dr. SE
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

BICYCLE RIDES NORTHWEST, INC.

5725 NE Cleveland Ave. • Portland, OR 97211
503.281.1526 • Cell 503.504.2656 • www.bicycleridesnw.org



February 23, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing BRNW's Solid Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Our Oregon-based nonprofit bike-tour organization, Bicycle Rides Northwest, has been offering tours in the Northwest for 35 years – but we had never had one on the magnificent Olympic Peninsula before 2022, because there wasn't infrastructure to safely accommodate our riders.

That changed with the continued development of the Olympic Discovery Trail and the plans to expand it to Puget Sound to the Pacific project. And so, last summer we were able to bring 350 people to the region for a week, which bolstered the local economy, showcased the area's natural beauty and helped support the movement for more bike/ped options in the Northwest. The local alternate transportation advocates of Washington are doing truly tremendous things, uniting a disparate group of towns, Tribes, agencies and others behind this massive project. But there is still work to complete to achieve their vision.

In that spirit, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application from communities across the Olympic Peninsula to prepare plans and designs for the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

BRNW is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region; it's literally our sole mission. We bring hundreds of people to a special place, and provide an enjoyable and safe environment for them to ride in. We have more than 4,000 people who have ridden a BRNW tour, and we've seen what a boost it is to quality of life, community spirit, personal health, local economies and connected communities to provide transportation options such as this.

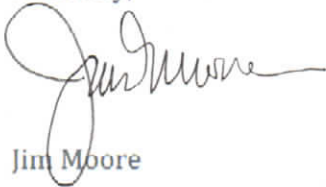
BRNW supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative continuous active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns

and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington and beyond. We had riders from 20-some states with us last summer, and you can bet they went back and told people at home about this incredible trail on the Olympic Peninsula that runs through the rain forests, past the beaches, and through the communities, that's designed for a car-less apex experience.

BRNW has become a strong proponent of the work being done on this project, and we spread the word through the deeply connected cycling and tourism groups we interact with. From lur point of view, there will be nothing but positives resulting from this landmark project.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to cyclists, walkers, horseback riders, casual tourists and local communities, and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Moore

Executive Director

Bicycle Rides Northwest

West Sound Cycling Club

1/25/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

US Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington DC, 20590

Re: West Sound Cycling Club expresses Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of West Sound Cycling Club (WSCC) of Kitsap County, Washington, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific trail (PS2P) FY23 RAISE grant application. These funds will be used to plan trail alignments and trail structures needed to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington. In addition to designing a trail through existing gaps, planning will include safety improvements and community connections that will link to the PS2P trail.

This design project is not only an asset for the nation, completing the western portion of the Great American Rail Trail from Seattle to the coastal city of Forks, it will supply the design for the first paved, shared use path longer than 2 miles in Kitsap County, the eastern section of the PS2P trail. The Kitsap Peninsula is decades behind surrounding counties in multi-modal connectivity, and RAISE funds could jump start a turnaround. Adding safe bicycle facilities to connect communities not only provides enhancements for recreational riders, it encourages bicycles as a mode of commuting and transport that reduces automobile use.

70 miles west of Kitsap County, in Port Angeles, WA, there is a completed section of the PS2P trail along the Strait of Juan de Fuca that counted over 320,000 visitors in one year. Bicycle enthusiasts regionally drive their cars to Port Angeles to enjoy the safe trails with ocean views. Rather than drive there, we'd like to use our bicycles. It is dangerous to ride bikes in our community. This design application to fill gaps in the PS2P trail will include connections to help us reach it. "If you build it, they will come".

Our goal as a bike club is to empower bicyclists through training, rides, advocacy, and camaraderie. Our club formed in the early 80's. As our membership has aged, we have come to realize the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle for both physical and mental health. The P2SP trail will give citizens of all ages and abilities access to safe and enjoyable trails for

simple walks or wheelchair use, allowing them to recapture independence and freedom they are currently denied.


PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe shared use path that links three counties on the Olympic Peninsula. On a larger scale, it will connect to the greater Seattle area and a large swath of northern Washington State through local connections. Communities near the PS2P trail will enjoy economic benefits because bicyclists and pedestrians tend to stop in the small communities; they become destinations instead of pass-throughs.

Please consider full support for funding this important design project to fill in the gaps in this proposed, continuous, 150 mile paved shared-use path. _____

Sincerely,



Chris Susi, President of WSCC



Paul Dutky, Chair of WSCC Advocacy Committee



02/10/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Expressing Strong Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

EMBA is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. We are Washington State's largest mountain bike organization with over 9,000 members and more than 65,000 social media followers statewide. We are dedicated to trail building and maintenance, as well as volunteerism, education, and advocacy. We strongly support any trail and recreation projects that provide healthy outdoor recreation opportunities for all, and work to connect trail networks to communities to increase and ease access, and remove barriers for people to reach trails and utilize them for both recreational and alternative commuting resources that reduce climate impact.

EMBA supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

EMBA partners with land managers across the state to advocate for as well as build and maintain, safe and sustainable trails across the state. Through education, volunteerism, and stewardship we help connect communities by creating shared ease of access to natural places.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to Bainbridge Island, the Kitsap Peninsula communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Lester", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Brandon Lester
Trail and Volunteer Program Manager

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID: 91-1553023.

249 Main Ave S | North Bend WA 98045 | 206.524.2900 | www.evergreenMTB.org

Benjamin Rainbow
Back Alley Bike Repair, owner/operator
314 1st Ave S
Seattle, WA 98104

2/14/23

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Can you imagine riding across the country? How about across Washington, or the whole Olympic Peninsula? Maybe walking safely across your community? I can and on behalf of myself and Back Alley Bike Repair, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

I have been committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. With Back Alley Bike Repair, I've brought access to sustainable personal mobility to downtown Seattle. Over the past 10 years, Back Alley Bike Repair has partnered with Metro Transit, Sound Transit, Vulcan, Amazon, Getty Images, Starbucks Coffee, GeoCache, Cascade Bicycle Group, Washington Bikes, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Peace Peloton, Swift Industries, Rapha, Enve, and countless small local and regional bicycle fabricators in supporting cyclists and their passions. Through trail stewardship, transportation advocacy, educational workshops, supporting community-driven programs, and the pursuit of lifelong adventure, I've worked tirelessly to create and sustain lifelong stakeholders that help empower Washington state's outdoors loving communities.

Myself and my business fully support this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Seattle is often viewed as a launch pad for adventure and discovery throughout the Pacific Northwest. We are truly on the doorstep to adventure. My work has been both in the background of supporting cycling advocates and safe design and implementation of cycling infrastructure, as well as in the foreground of developing regional routes that attract cyclists from around the world. I have been inspired by the access to the abundant natural beauty that defines the region. To honor that source of inspiration, I've sought to provide support where possible to ensure life enriching beauty and healthy ties among the region's communities is available to residents, visitors, and for future generations to come.

Please consider this letter my full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to the Puget Sound region and Back Alley Bike Repair's communities and beyond.

Sincerely,



2-14-23

Benjamin Rainbow
Back Alley Bike Repair

Jason Marqusee (Owner of Good Weather Bicycle and Cafe)
02/02/2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Jason Marqusee's Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Can you imagine riding across the country? How about across Washington, or the whole Olympic Peninsula? Maybe walking safely across your community? I can and on behalf of Good Weather please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

My life is dedicated to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region, a byproduct being better community support for local businesses, trail initiatives, and health. We support this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

It's our opinion that the physical boundaries that separate groups in the greater Seattle metro area are being made less significant by initiatives like this one, whereby residents will be able to easily and safely access the surrounding townships, parks, and recreation. This is good for everyone; tourism grows, commerce is diversified and disseminated to new regions, and this area of the country can continue to grow in a healthy, desirable way. My shop is built around the idea that, the more facilitation of alternative modes of transportation, the better we all are for it. We think efforts like these are the best way to make these positive changes happen.

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

Sincerely,
Jason Marqusee

Good Weather in Seattle

OPEN 9AM-7PM | MON: Closed
206-552-9864 | hello@goodweatherinseattle.com



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

February 7, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: REI Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY22 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the REI co-op and our 21 million members, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

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 \$862 billion dollar outdoor recreation industry and more than 4.5 million jobs.

REI supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns, and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to the Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the wider state of Washington.

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 Relations
REI co-op

Cc Barb Trafton, Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation



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



January 26, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of The Mountaineers, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to design the gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington, from Bainbridge Island to La Push.

The Mountaineers, based in Seattle, Washington and founded in 1906, is a nonprofit outdoor education, conservation, and recreation organization whose mission is "to enrich the community by helping people explore, conserve, learn about and enjoy the lands and waters of the Pacific Northwest and beyond." 1,200 skilled volunteers lead 3,200 outdoor education trips and courses annually for 15,000 members. Many of these trips and activities, including opportunities coordinated by our Kitsap and Olympia branches, connect outdoor enthusiasts to the forests, trails, and waterways of the Olympic Peninsula.

We are a passionate, engaged, and knowledgeable community that cares about the outdoors, and protects the outdoor experience for current and future generations. We're committed to ensuring equitable and sustainable recreation access to the Northwest's public lands and waters.

The Mountaineers supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the many counties, small towns and reservations directly served, but also as a connected route to Olympic National Park, the greater Seattle area, and the state of Washington.

Thank you for considering our full support for funding this important project to provide the recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to all that strive to experience all that the Olympic Peninsula has to offer.

Sincerely,

Betsy Robblee
Conservation & Advocacy Director
betsyr@mountaineers.org



Washington Trails Association

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

February 14, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

I am writing on behalf of Washington Trails Association in support of the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

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 24,000 member households and an online community of more than 100,000. Each year nearly 4,500 WTA volunteers perform over 160,000 hours of trail maintenance across the state.

WTA is committed to providing outdoor recreation opportunities for communities across Washington. Access to trails provides physical and mental health benefits, as well as boosting local economies. This project would support non-motorized routes from the ferry to winter and shoulder season hikes in Kitsap County, such as the Grand Forest on Bainbridge and the Port Gamble Heritage Forest in North Kitsap.

WTA supports this application because the PS2P will provide a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This will increase access to regional recreation trails and serve as an innovative active transportation corridor. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Thank you for your consideration in funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development and transportation benefits of trails to Western Washington communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director

February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Expressing Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Strong Support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Since 1986, RTC has worked to bring the power of trails to communities across the country, serving as the national voice for the rail-trail movement. With more than 1 million grassroots supporters, 24,000+ miles of rail-trails on the ground nationwide and more than 8,000 miles of rail-trails ready to be built, we know that trails transform communities by enhancing safety, quality of life, sustainability, and by bolstering local economies.

RTC launched the Great American Rail-Trail in 2019 with a vision to unite Americans with a cross-country trail that would be accessible to all. The route is over 54% complete, and hundreds of partners around the country are working to complete their remaining portions of the route and maintain and activate the 2,000+ miles of completed trail along the route. RTC works closely with these partners unite the vision, provide technical assistance, promote their trails, and protect vital funding sources.

RTC supports this application because it will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns, and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to communities on the Olympic Peninsula and beyond.

Sincerely,



Ryan Chao
President
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Western Montana Cross-County Trail Coalition

Mineral County, Missoula County, Missoula City
Granite County, Powell County, Silverbow County,
Flint-Creek Trails Association, Mineral County Rails-to-Trails Assoc.

February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Western Montana Cross-County Trail Coalition Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Can you imagine riding across the country? How about across Washington, or the whole Olympic Peninsula? Maybe walking safely across your community? I can, and on behalf of the Western Montana Cross-County Trail Coalition, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

The Montana Cross-County Trail Coalition is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across the region. Our coalition understands the important benefits this trail will bring to the communities along this route. Support for this route will bolster local economies, improve safety, provide sustainable alternatives to carbon-based transportation options, and provide a healthy outlet for mental and physical health.

The Montana Cross-County Trail Coalition supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

The Montana Cross-County Trail Coalition formed in 2022 following discussions which highlighted the needs and benefits of a trail that would cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries. The support for the Great American Rail Trail is nation-wide, and this funding is extremely critical to help disadvantaged communities realize the returns and benefits of a trail that provides coast-coast connectivity.

Please consider full support for funding this important project to provide the public health, recreation, community development, and transportation benefits of trails to the entire northwest region of the United States.

Sincerely,

Amanda Cooley

Powell County Planning Director,
Project Leader for the Cross-County Trail Coalition

Amanda Cooley, Powell County Planning Director - acooley@powellcountymt.gov - 406-846-9729

Jackson Lee - Missoula Parks, Trails, and Open Lands - Project Specialist - jlee@missoulacounty.us - 406-258-4719



**P. O. Box 1566
Wooster, OH 44691**

February 6, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Expressing Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Ohio, Enthusiastic Support for Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Can you imagine riding across the country? How about across Washington, or the whole Olympic Peninsula? Maybe walking safely across your community? I can and on behalf of Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Ohio, please accept this letter of support for the Puget Sound to Pacific FY23 RAISE application to plan and design the one hundred miles of gaps, missing links, community connections and safety improvements to complete the western 200 miles of the Great American Rail-Trail in Western Washington.

Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Ohio is committed to providing opportunities for active transportation in communities across Wayne County, Ohio, and specifically the Heartland Trail which is a segment of the Great American Rail Trail and will connect to these trails in Western Washington.

Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Ohio, supports this application because the PS2P will be an innovative active transportation corridor, providing a safe, non-motorized shared use path connecting communities in three counties. This multi-use trail project will be an asset not just to the counties, small towns and Tribal nations directly served, but also to the wider state of Washington.

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

Sincerely,

Don Noble II
President, Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Ohio
waynerailstotrails@gmail.com

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The Washington State Ferries Seattle-Bainbridge Island sailings are the PS2P link to the Great American Rail-Trail. Photo: Steve Durrant

