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December 1, 2024

The Honorable Marko Lias  
Washington State Senate  
PO Box 40421  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Jake Fey  
Washington House of Representatives  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Curtis King  
Washington State Senate  
PO Box 40414  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Andrew Barkis  
Washington House of Representatives  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Best Practices for preventing or mitigating the impact of investments in and the operations of freight systems in overburdened communities.

Dear Chairs Lias and Fey, Ranking Members King and Barkis, and Legislative Transportation Committees:

The Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) is proud to submit “Integrating Community Considerations in Freight Investments: Recommendations to Create Benefits and Minimize Negative Impacts on Overburdened Communities”. FMSIB believes that the information and tools developed in this report underscore that infrastructure investments can and should be designed with community input to deliver significant benefits to members of overburdened communities while enhancing the freight system.

Under the direction of the Washington State Legislature and Substitute House Bill 1084, FMSIB engaged with BERK Consulting and Cascadia Consulting Group to conduct a research-based study and develop practical tools to help FMSIB, applicants, and project sponsors integrate consideration of overburdened communities in strategic freight investments. As a result of this work, the following items were developed:

1. A final report describing FMSIB’s focus on implementation and best practices for applicants, project sponsors, and infrastructure owners broadly.
2. A publicly accessible interactive mapping tool that supports integrated consideration of strategic freight system investments and community impact which will help users understand the relationship between existing freight infrastructure, potential future freight projects, and nearby communities.

**Chair**  
Temple Lentz

**Executive Director**  
Brandy DeLange

**Board Members**

Leonard Barnes  
Peter Bennett  
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Johan Hellman  
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Anne McEnerney-Ogle  
Roger Millar

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Phil Wallace  
Ben Wick

To Legislative Leaders and Legislative Transportation Committees

Re: Best Practices for Overburdened Communities

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3. A toolkit providing practical guidance for how jurisdictions can make effective and equitable public works investments. Applicants will find the toolkit particularly useful, as FMSIB-specific considerations are highlighted, and several worksheets may be submitted directly to FMSIB in response to its call for proposals as it develops its Strategic Six-Year Program.
4. A StoryMap providing applicants, sponsors, and other engaged participants an overview of FMSIB's focus, key findings, and easy access to worksheets and case studies.

Moving forward, FMSIB will use these products to inform the strategic work of not only the Six-Year Investment Program but other emerging freight needs as well. This includes education and training for project applicants, sponsors, and other agencies that may find benefit in understanding the relationship between existing freight infrastructure, potential future investments, and nearby communities.

FMSIB remains committed to the important work of aligning strategic freight investment and community benefit. By elevating the focus on overburdened communities and providing practical tools for a wide range of interested parties, we are confident that this work will provide significant benefits for all Washington communities.

Sincerely,



Temple Lentz

FMSIB Board Chair