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September 5, 2014

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
310 Maple Park Avenue SE  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

Dear Secretary ~~Peterson~~: *Lynn*

I am pleased to invite you to be a speaker at the Practical Design CEO session during AASHTO's Annual Meeting in November in Charlotte, North Carolina. This CEO session is designed to explore the different approaches to practical design and identify common principles and issues that need to be addressed as this concept becomes more common practice across the country.

As you know, some State DOTs started using this approach to highway design a number of years ago and now many states have adopted different versions of practical design. We appreciate the fact that Washington State has been a leader and that you have personally championed practical design. Your perspectives and a description of Washington State DOT's experience would be invaluable for the discussion.

A fundamental question to be explored is whether the standards approach to design has been resulting in premium infrastructure when a practical design approach may meet the purpose and need of the facility more cost effectively with no negative impacts on safety or other operating aspects. Given the aging infrastructure and the significant financial constraints all levels of government face, this is an opportune time to consider practical design more systematically. The Federal Highway Administration has been presenting and discussing a "performance-based practical design" approach at meetings of AASHTO technical committees over the past several months and may be poised to advocate broader use of this approach. Your experience with practical design would also help inform FHWA's proposal.

We look forward to your affirmative response and a productive annual meeting.

Sincerely,

*Bud Wright*  
Bud Wright  
Executive Director

*Lynn:*  
*Thanks for your leadership.*  
*Bud*