



*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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May 30, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: University of Washington Burke-Gilman Trail TIGER V Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board, I am writing in strong support of the University of Washington's application for funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program to finance construction of the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) was created by the City of Seattle in 1997 to act as stewards of the Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan and make Seattle "the most walkable city in the nation". This group advises the Mayor and City Council on policy decisions impacting the pedestrian experience.

The historic Burke-Gilman Trail provides pedestrians with connectivity to major employment, residential and transit centers, a value that will only be enhanced with the planned opening of a new light rail station. As it stands now, this vital element of Seattle's pedestrian infrastructure is overwhelmed with traffic volumes that create an unsafe environment for the people who wish to use it; a situation that will only worsen as the City's population grows. In addition, the trail's physical structure has been compromised by broken asphalt and unkept tree roots, which limit efficient use of the trail. In order for Seattle to keep pace with the mobility needs of its population today and tomorrow, the challenges facing the Burke-Gilman Trail must be addressed.

The proposed project by the University of Washington addresses these concerns by widening the trail, separating bicyclists and walkers onto different paths, enhancing lighting, upgrading the trail's ADA accessibility, building public spaces and creating safer intersections between popular footpaths, roadways and the trail. All of this will be highly valued by pedestrians and ensures their ability to commute and engage their community safely. The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board believes that Seattle can achieve the status of being the most walkable city in the nation, and the project proposed by the University of Washington brings us a step closer to that goal.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board is excited about the possibilities that this project will create for the pedestrian community and strongly urges your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Devor Barton, Chair
Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

Cc: Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Governor Jay Inslee,
Congressman Jim McDermott

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

*-City Council Resolution
28791*

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