

August 27, 2009

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

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Washington supports the City of Seattle's funding request for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds for the Mercer Corridor Project. In 2006 AGC took a position of support for this critically needed transportation improvement. The endless bottlenecks and increasing pedestrian vehicle conflicts as the area redevelops is a constant reminder of the urgency of this project.

From our Association's view point the Mercer project presents an economic opportunity for the Seattle region. Our studies show that for each \$1 million invested in new construction, nearly 16 additional jobs are created across the economy. Further for each \$1 invested in new construction the state's economy generates almost \$2 in economic activity and all household earnings, not just those with someone employed in construction are increased by 64 cents.

From the perspective of a long term property owner with office tenants served by the corridor, the project provides a reasonable solution to a 40 year old problem that improves local and regional access for both freight and vehicles, improves safety, supports transit, creates a pedestrian environment and is consistent with the development objectives for this long neglected inner city neighborhood.

Your approval of funds will help bring the region one step closer to implementing this long needed improvement.

Sincerely,



David D'Hondt
Executive Vice President
AGC of Washington

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Representative Jim McDermott

Governor Christine Gregoire
Mayor Greg Nickels
Council President Richard Conlin

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