

August 28, 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:

We ask your support for federal Recovery Act funding for the City of Seattle's Mercer Corridor Project.

Rosetta Inpharmatics LLC ("Company"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Merck & Co. Inc., develops and implements technologies that will improve drug discovery. Rosetta moved to the South Lake Union ("SLU") neighborhood in 2004. We have employed up to 350 people in the Rosetta building located on Terry Avenue North, between Republican and Harrison, over the course of the last five years. Both the Company and our employees rely heavily on the amenities of the South Lake Union neighborhood, including the ability to enter and exit the neighborhood in a reasonable period of time. Our employees and vendors are particularly impacted by the traffic concerns related to Mercer "mess" between I-5 and Aurora Avenue, as this corridor provides the primary access to our building. The only alternatives are surface streets that were not designed to carry the volume of traffic related to the growing businesses in this area.

The Mercer Corridor project is critical to maintaining the vitality of this growing neighborhood, and in making South Lake Union a viable option for employers like Rosetta. This project provides the opportunity to create a truly multi-use community that benefits employees, community residents, and local businesses alike. Rosetta's presence in this urban community, along with proximity to other life science companies (a sector we expect to continue to grow in South Lake Union) continues to be a major attraction for our potential employees as well as a powerful retention tool for existing employees. Continued increased congestion can only work to reverse the attractiveness of this neighborhood.

In addition to significantly improving traffic flow, the project includes more than 30 blocks of sidewalks and installs new bicycle lanes that connect to the urban trail system. It completes key segments of the Lake to Bay Trail and the Cheshiahud Trail around Lake Union. We have an avid



bicycling commuter group, with approximately 20% of our workforce participating in the annual Bike to Work Month competition. Expansion of clearly marked bike lines and trails is critical to ensuring that biking is a viable and safe commuting option. This too, is a major attraction to potential employees.

Overall, the vitality of the neighborhood, critical to employers, employees and residents alike, is dependent upon this joint effort to fix the Mercer Corridor.

Sincerely yours,

Doug Bassett, Ph.D.

Site-Head, Rosetta Inpharmatics LLC

Executive Director, Merck Research Laboratories

cc:

Senator Patty Murray

Representative Jim McDermott

Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell

Governor Christine Gregoire

Council President Richard Conlin