



August 28, 2009

1301 5th Avenue
Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98101-2611

206.389.7200
206.389.7288 FAX
www.seattlechamber.com

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,

I am writing to express the Greater Seattle Chamber's strong support for the City of Seattle's application for Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Funds (TIGER funds) for the Mercer Corridor Project.

The Mercer Street corridor carries more than 80,000 people each day. However, its current configuration causes a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, impeding access to Interstate 5 and State Route 520, the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront and freight terminals. The Mercer Corridor Project would alleviate this congestion and facilitate the preservation and creation of thousands of jobs in our region.

The project itself generates approximately 600 direct construction jobs that will start up with the award of the grant, and the resulting infrastructure improvements will give employers needed capacity to expand their operations, encouraging growth in four key sectors of Washington state's economy: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade.

Major employers served by the project include the Seattle Center, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the University of Washington School of Medicine, Amgen and numerous other traditional and high-tech media companies. The Mercer Corridor also serves as the main linkage to Port of Seattle facilities on the north side of Elliott Bay, which include international cruise terminals, shipping facilities, and industrial fisheries uses.

With federal Recovery Act funding, we have the opportunity to improve mobility and access in one of our region's economic engines. I encourage your support of the city's application for TIGER funds for this crucial project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Bussey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Phil Bussey
President & CEO
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin