

SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION

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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:

Seattle Parks Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization that improves, expands, and creates parks and green spaces, building a more vibrant community. Since 2001 we have raised over \$28 million dollars and completed 28 neighborhood park projects.

Our current major urban park project, Lake Union Park, is a 12-acre waterfront park that opens access to 600 acres of “blue space” on Lake Union and will be a local park of regional significance that celebrates the history of our area, provides necessary green space for a growing city, and opens lake access for recreation. Seattle Parks Foundation secured over \$20 million in private dollars to complete Lake Union Park.

The completion of the Mercer Corridor Project is vital to the success of this new public park.

We are urging you to support the City of Seattle in their request for federal TIGER funds toward the Mercer Corridor Project. Completion of this project will turn Valley Street, which borders Lake Union Park to the south, into a more pedestrian friendly road which will act as a safe and accessible transition to this new public park.

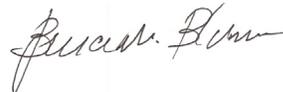
The Mercer Corridor Project will also build on existing work to create safe pedestrian and bicycle connections around Lake Union and between the lake and Elliot Bay. Portions of these two trails, the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop and Lake to Bay Trail respectively, are integrated with the Mercer Corridor Project design, as this geographically small area is a vital transportation corridor for not just cars, but for people on foot and bike as well.

There is strong community support to complete the Mercer Corridor Project for many reasons. Seattle Parks Foundation is one voice among many, but the Mercer Corridor Project is vital to the success of our most significant projects. We seek your support for the City of Seattle to receive TIGER funds to complete the vision for the Mercer Corridor.

Sincerely,



Karen Daubert
Executive Director



Bruce Blume
Board President

cc:

Executive Director

Karen E. Daubert

*Improving and expanding
Seattle's parks and
green spaces*

seattleparksfoundation.org