



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of WASHINGTON

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March 9, 2012

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

Ref: City of Seattle MERCER WEST TIGER IV 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 West Project. As a property owner adjacent to Mercer Street, AGC has been a long time proponent for improvements in the corridor. The endless bottlenecks and increasing pedestrian - vehicle conflicts as the area redevelops is a constant reminder of the urgency of this project. The completion of Mercer East together with Mercer West will finally address these issues.

From our Association's view point the Mercer West project presents another job opportunity for an industry hard hit by the current economic climate where construction projects are few and far between. An independent study by the University of Washington shows 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 40 year property owner with office tenants served by the corridor, the project provides a solution to a decades 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,

Jerry Dinndorf
AGC Seattle District Manager

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