



HAL

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

Re: City of Seattle MERCER WEST TIGER IV application

Tuesday, March 06, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am a resident of the Eastlake neighborhood in Seattle. Virtually every work day, I either walk or ride my bike from home to downtown, via the South Lake Union neighborhood. The Mercer Corridor improvements will, I believe, make a very important contribution to making Seattle a more competitive regional economy and also make the neighborhood a much nicer place to live and ride a bike or walk through.

Here are four reasons why I support the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant which will be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

1. Mercer West will provide badly needed pedestrian and bicycle connections between the Queen Anne and South Lake Union neighborhoods.
2. Mercer West will carry 55,000 vehicles daily, extending street, bicycle and sidewalk improvements from Ninth Avenue North to Queen Anne Avenue North.
3. Mercer West is critical to the success of other major transportation projects. Mercer West links the Seattle Center, the Port of Seattle, and neighborhoods in northwest Seattle with the SR99 Bored Tunnel replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct. All the planning around the downtown tunnel assumed that Mercer West would move forward. Without it, we can't take advantage of the investments we've already made.
4. Mercer West continues the phenomenal success of South Lake Union. It is the second phase of the Mercer Corridor Project, serving the Gates Foundation, the University of Washington, PATH, Amazon, RealNetworks, Classmates.com, F5 Networks, the North Pacific Fishing Fleet and the maritime and manufacturing industries of InterBay and Ballard.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Grant
HAL Real Estate Investments, Inc.

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Congressman Jim McDermott
Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle

HAL Real Estate Investments Inc.

2025 First Avenue, Suite 700 ♦ Seattle, WA 98121 ♦ t 206.448.5080 ♦ f 206 448-5075 www.halrealestate.com