



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  
March 7, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As Executive Director of Transportation Choices, I would like to express our support for the City of Seattle's Mercer West application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER IV grant.

As an organization, Transportation Choices is committed to creating transit infrastructure that is robust, timely, and effective. For us, investment in dynamic transit projects goes beyond simply increasing ridership or mobility. It involves creating jobs, reinvigorating the local economy, and building transit oriented communities. We think the Mercer West project does a great job of fitting into these criteria. Mercer West will provide key transit, bicycle and pedestrian connections to a variety of critical destinations including the Seattle Center, the Port of Seattle, and several first ring Seattle neighborhoods.

It's estimated that Mercer West will reduce more than 5,000 vehicle miles traveled in the downtown and South Lake Union neighborhood due to the increased bike, pedestrian, and transit access including three key elements of the project: 1 - A continuous east-west bikeway from the east side of South Lake Union to Lower Queen Anne, two of Seattle's most rapidly densifying neighborhoods. 2 - Creating faster transit connections to King County's new Bus Rapid Transit line connecting downtown Seattle to the northwest section of the city. 3 - Creation of attractive wide sidewalks, street treatments, and other amenities that will increase pedestrian activity.

The Mercer West project will have a broader effect on the local economy as well. This project would be a significant regional boost for jobs, ensuring the continued employment of 500 workers. In short, we strongly support Seattle's Mercer West TIGER IV application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ROB".

Rob Johnson  
Transportation Choices Coalition

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