

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 6, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Seattle, Washington, Mercer West project
Docket No. DOT-OST-2012-0012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to write and express my support for the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) Mercer West TIGER IV application. This project builds on the renaissance currently underway in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood and will help to ensure the ongoing economic viability of the city and the neighborhood.

South Lake Union has grown significantly over the past decade, and now is home to major private businesses, research institutions, and the non-profit community. This growth has exacerbated transportation problems in the neighborhood, requiring new investments to realign mobility corridors and create new connections to handle the increased demand.

Completion of the Mercer West project is a critical component of this plan. The project will complement growth by extending street, bicycle, and sidewalk improvements from Ninth Avenue North to Queen Anne Avenue North, and will carry 55,000 vehicles daily. It will also provide improved access to the Port of Seattle, other neighborhoods in northwest Seattle, and the SR-99 bored tunnel that is replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

I urge you to give you careful and thorough consideration to SDOT's application for funding under the TIGER IV program for improvements to Mercer West. I am pleased to add my support to this project.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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