

# SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE

Jerry Manning, Artistic Director | Benjamin Moore, Managing Director

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 8, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are pleased to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant, which will dedicate funding to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that has long been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area. When Mercer is blocked, ripple effects can be felt for miles; located directly off Mercer and Warren, Seattle Repertory Theatre is a primary witness to the overburdened streets and overabundant congestion.

Seattle Repertory Theatre's programming reaches 125,000 audience members annually. The current state of Mercer Corridor frequently causes these patrons to experience travel delays and/or have difficulty parking in the Seattle Center area.

Many frustrated patrons complain about traffic conditions, especially those for whom traffic complications cause a late arrival to a performance. Others have learned to allocate excessive travel time in order to contend with Mercer Corridor. Improving Mercer West will allow the public easier access to enjoy the cultural amenities offered by Seattle Repertory Theatre, as well as by our many colleagues on the Seattle Center campus.

In addition, the number of people employed by Seattle Rep (including annual and seasonal staff, artists, and part-time employees) peaks at more than 350 and exceeds 900 including volunteers. These employees and volunteers will benefit from street, bicycle and pedestrian improvements included in the Two-Way Mercer West project.

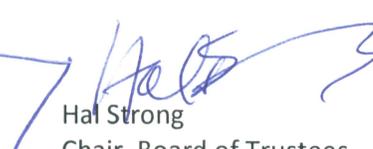
We look forward to the completion of the Two-Way Mercer West project. Increased access between the places they work, live, and socialize will provide Seattle Repertory Theatre staff and patrons a safer, easier, and more enjoyable working and living experience.

Sincerely,

Seattle Repertory Theatre

  
Benjamin Moore  
Managing Director

  
Gerard Manning  
Artistic Director

  
Hal Strong  
Chair, Board of Trustees

  
Brent Johnson  
President, Board of Trustees

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