



State of Washington
WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

March 19, 2012

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

Re: Mercer West TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As state legislators representing the City of Seattle, we are pleased to write in support of the city's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West extension.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 80,000 people per day and is a critical link to State Route 99, one of two north-south highways serving the entire Puget Sound region. This corridor is a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, limiting access to the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront, the Seattle Center, and major federal and state highways.

Completing Mercer West is a priority for the state and will facilitate the movement of freight, improve transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic development, reduce regional congestion and improve the transportation environment for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit. This project will create over 500 direct jobs, providing a needed economic boost to our region and countless indirect jobs due to the projected growth of the area as well.

Over the last decade the state has partnered closely with the City of Seattle in finding a workable solution to the failing Alaskan Way Viaduct (SR 99). The state is committed to building a deep bore tunnel through the city and the Mercer West project is a critical component to the success of this major regional priority.

Construction of Mercer West must be in conjunction with the work being done on the deep bore tunnel project. This TIGER Grant would allow Seattle to begin construction immediately and complete its work prior to completion of the bored tunnel in 2015. We urge you to support the Mercer West Corridor Project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Edward Murray, 43rd Legislative District
Representative Jamie Pedersen, 43rd Legislative District
Senator Sharon Nelson, 34th Legislative District
Representative Eileen Cody, 34th Legislative District
Senator David Frockt, 46th Legislative District
Representative Gerry Pollet, 46th Legislative District
Representative Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, 46th Legislative District
Senator Margarita Prentice, 11th Legislative District
Representative Zack Hudgins, 11th Legislative District
Representative Bob Hasagawa, 11th Legislative District
Senator Adam Kline, 37th Legislative District
Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, 37th Legislative District
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, 36th Legislative District
Representative Reuven Carlyle, 36th Legislative District