



City of Seattle

March 12, 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:

We are writing in support of the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding for the Mercer Corridor West project. The corridor is a key route in downtown Seattle, linking Interstate 5 to Elliott Bay, the Port of Seattle and SR 99. It carries an average of 55,000 people throughout the day and is critical to keeping people and services moving within Seattle, throughout the region, and to the rest of the country. These federal TIGER funds would be the last-dollar in and would ensure the successful implementation of this important project.

The Mercer Corridor Project will provide a vital connection and complete a corridor that connects population and employment centers in northeast Seattle with both Interstate 5 and 90. The project will create over 500 direct construction jobs now and act as an economic driver for the future of this neighborhood, which has experienced significant economic growth since the City committed to building out this corridor three years ago with the Mercer Corridor East project. The route serves major institutions in the global health community such as the University of Washington Medicine, Group Health Cooperative, Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center, PATH and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It is also home to Amazon, the world's largest online retailer.

Delay in the completion of this project jeopardizes employment development and risks delay of the Alaskan Way Tunnel project. The entire Mercer Corridor Project must be completed to adequately serve the transportation needs of this growing hub. The corridor also serves as a vital east/west connection to the region and provides a necessary connection to the Alaskan Way Viaduct Tunnel Project north terminus. Making this area function well for the city and region is important to keeping people, goods and services moving.

This corridor will help maintain and attract jobs, continue to accommodate freight and provide alternative transportation mobility for pedestrian and bicyclists. We urge your support for this vital component of our regional economy and transportation system.

City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, Washington 98124-4025
(206) 684-8888 Fax: (206) 684-8587 TTY: (206) 233-0025

<http://www.seattle.gov/>

An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

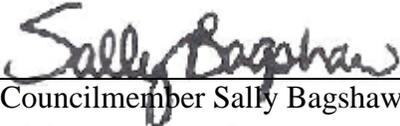
Sincerely,



Mayor Mike McGinn



Council President Sally J. Clark



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Tim Burgess



Councilmember Richard Conlin



Councilmember Jean Godden



Councilmember Bruce Harrell



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Congressman Jim McDermott