

UW Medicine

March 8, 2012

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day. It has been 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. This project is vital because it supports four key sectors of the regional economy including: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade.

This project is located at the front door of our UW School of Medicine research hub in South Lake Union which has 1200 employees doing nationally renowned wet bench research in multiple buildings. Our strong commitment to this area of the City is underscored by our construction of our 4th building since 2005 which will open in 2013 bringing our total square footage to approximately 585,000 GSF. UW SOM faculty also work and do research at nearby affiliated institutions including Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Seattle Cancer Alliance. The Mercer West project supports the commute for our employees to and from work but also completes a project (Mercer East) to improve the flow of traffic for all.

South Lake Union was a light industrial/commercial zone that is now the most rapidly changing neighborhood in the city. This dynamic quality is yet another reason that our infrastructure, especially our roadways, needs to reflect the multi-million dollar investment by the private and institutional sector in the area.

As an avid bicyclist, I also support the improvements for bicyclists in the region, many of whom are our faculty and students. These improvements, which are part of the Mercer West Project

Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.

C-314 Health Sciences Center University of Washington Box 356350 Seattle, WA 98195-6350
206.543.7718 FAX 206.685.8767 pramsey@uw.edu

and would be funded by this grant, include a ten foot bike path in the Mercer Underpass and the creation of a continuous east-west bikeway from the east side of South Lake Union to Lower Queen Anne.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul G. Ramsey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "R".

Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.
CEO, UW Medicine
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and
Dean of the School of Medicine,
University of Washington

PGR/dv

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire

Congressman Jim McDermott
Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle