



May 30, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New
Jersey Ave. SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Seattle Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please accept this letter in support for the application of the City of Seattle for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant. Bike Works particularly wants to express our strong interest in expanding Seattle's bike share network to many Seattle neighborhoods, including ours.

Located in the heart of Columbia City community in southeast Seattle, Bike Works provides programs and resources to a richly diverse neighborhood that, compared with Seattle as a whole, has high rates of poverty and poor community health indicators: 30% of Columbia City residents live below the poverty line, and King County Public Health data shows 20% of southeast Seattle residents report no physical activity and 57% are overweight or obese. Southeast Seattle residents experience higher rates of diabetes and asthma than any other King County community. In addition, this area is home to some of the lowest performing schools in the county.

The City of Seattle is actively pursuing bike share program integration with the regional transit fare card, ORCA and its ORCA LIFT reduced fare program. For Bike Works, making bicycling accessible and affordable to people from all walks of life is a core mission. While our bike shop sells affordable recycled bicycles to the greater Seattle community, sometimes ownership is not an immediate goal. The ability to have bike share available to engage residents and promote bicycling – especially for low-income individuals, seniors or college students in need of an occasional working bicycle—offers a real travel option that allows them to participate in the community and in healthy active transportation while it encourages later bike ownership.

Lastly, Bike Works is excited to work with the City of Seattle to incorporate both permanent jobs and internships with area residents to support community engagement and local employment opportunities. This project would provide an important partnership between a public agency and private organization to leverage the strengths and opportunities of both toward a common goal.

Our organization believes that using bicycles for adult education and opportunity-building is key to for healthy individuals and a healthy community. On behalf of Columbia City, we strongly urge your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Deb Salls, Executive Director
Bike Works

CC:
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
Congressman Adam Smith
Mayor Edward B. Murray, Seattle