

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express my strong support for the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund construction of the Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education project. This project includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing Interstate 5 (I-5) and other safety improvements to serve the Northgate Transit Center as well as a major expansion of the City's bike share program.

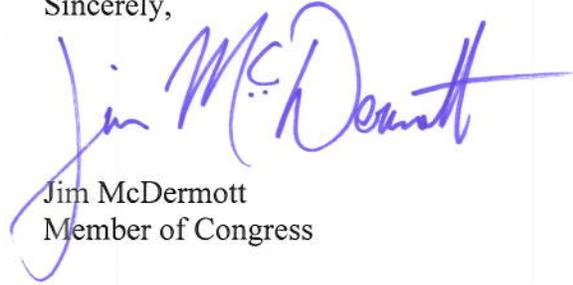
Bisecting the neighborhood, I-5 currently hinders potential growth and development around Seattle's Northgate Urban Center, an MPO-designated regional growth center. As I-5 runs north and south through the neighborhood, it inhibits access between the amenities and services on the west and east side of the freeway. North Seattle College and Northwest Hospital are located on the west side of the freeway, while the east side boasts a community center and library, a regional shopping center, medical facilities, and the future home of the Northgate Link Light Rail Station – not to mention residential areas and parks on both sides.

The lack of any reasonable bicycle and pedestrian connection across I-5 limits the potential of both areas and hinders the transit-oriented development that is anticipated to follow the opening of the light rail segment. Likewise, while a planned bike share expansion into the Northgate neighborhood has great potential to improve healthy and affordable travel options, introducing these services without safer and more inviting ped-bike connections would be crippling for bike share operations in this divided neighborhood. Overcoming these difficulties in our designated centers and transit hubs is a critical step toward reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and reaching our region's aggressive environmental goals.

Northgate is one of Seattle's most affordable neighborhoods and it includes a higher proportion of economically disadvantaged populations than the city as a whole. By improving access throughout the neighborhood, we also will help to ensure that this population can have better access to other job centers throughout the region.

I urge you to strongly consider the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding. With proper support, we have an opportunity to transform an auto-oriented neighborhood into a significant mixed-use area that will provide great social and environmental benefits for the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim McDermott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress