



May 29, 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 TIGER application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to communicate Microsoft Corporation's support for the City of Seattle's application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant program to construct bicycle and pedestrian projects in the Northgate area north of downtown.

While our corporate headquarters are located in Redmond, east of Seattle, we do have a significant employee footprint in the City of Seattle as well. Additionally, our 40,000+ Puget Sound-area employees reside throughout the region and many rely on public transportation to commute to their jobs. Improving pedestrian and bicycle access to these facilities will significantly enhance the safety and efficiency of their daily commutes.

These investments also represent another important step in a region-wide effort to expand options for non-single occupancy vehicle traffic. Central Puget Sound faces significant congestion issues and making it easier for commuters to access public transportation is a key strategy in improving commute times, air quality and overall quality of life in the region. In fact, public input was crucial in the decision to make greater investment in bicycle and pedestrian access to the Northgate station and in obtaining commitments from Sound Transit and the City of Seattle to invest in better non-motorized transportation options in the area.

The bridge project would provide critical access to transit — both the Metro Transit center and a future Link light rail station — for thousands of employees, students and other residents who are currently cut off by the I-5 freeway, which prevents transit from being within a reasonable walking distance and a viable option for their travel throughout the Greater Seattle area.

We believe that the City of Seattle has presented a strong case for TIGER funds to build pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to enhance the effectiveness of public transportation in the Northgate area. We urge you to approve the City of Seattle's application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeLee Shoemaker".

DeLee Shoemaker
Senior Director, Government Affairs
Microsoft Corporation

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CC:

Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressman Jim McDermott, Mayor Edward B. Murray,
Seattle