

May 28, 2015

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

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Dear Secretary Foxx:

Seattle Parks Foundation strongly supports the application of the City of Seattle for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant to construct bicycle and pedestrian projects in the Northgate area and expansion of the bike share network.

Seattle Parks Foundation is a 14-year-old independent nonprofit, which raises money and advocates for public realm projects throughout the city. We have a deep and longstanding commitment to a complete network of safe, beautiful pedestrian and bike connections between parks, schools, and neighborhoods throughout the city. We have published “Bands of Green” studies that map out where such connections exist and what the opportunities are for the city moving forward. These documents have guided much public and private sector development in the city. We sponsor Seattle Neighborhood Greenways, a hugely effective advocacy group, working with neighborhood groups around the city who share Bands of Green goals. We are also sponsoring efforts to enhance pedestrian and bike transit access in the Columbia City, Mount Baker, and Beacon Hill neighborhoods.

A bridge at Northgate would provide critical access to transit for transit neighbors and for 14,000 community college students, workers, and residents who are currently cut-off by the I-5 freeway. Expansion of the bike share network will provide a safe and practical option for non-motorized travel.

Seattle is one of the fastest growing cities in America and we need to be making investments for a more urban, dense, greener, and human-scaled future. We urge you to approve the City of Seattle’s TIGER VI grant application.

Sincerely,



Thatcher Bailey
Executive Director

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