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May 11, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, I am writing to express our strong support for the Seattle Department of Transportation's proposal to construct an overpass connecting the Elliot Bay Trail with Elliot Avenue West at West Thomas Street.

The Elliot Bay Trail is an integral part of Seattle's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, linking the Magnolia, Ballard and Interbay neighborhoods with the downtown core. However, the Burlington Northern railroad tracks running parallel with the Elliot Avenue West block access to the trail and create a nearly two mile trail segment where bicycle accessibility is limited to either end. Not only does this prevent access from the densely populated Uptown Urban Center, but it also creates a situation where cyclists approaching from this neighborhood and areas East are forced onto Elliot Avenue West, an arterial that serves high traffic volumes and is not designed to safely accommodate cyclists.

Construction of the overpass will improve accessibility to the Elliot Bay Trail, improve the connectivity of the Uptown and South Lake Union neighborhoods with the Seattle waterfront, and will help to move cyclists off of a dangerous Elliot Avenue West.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board strongly recommends the construction of the West Thomas Street overpass as a critical step towards encouraging the growth of non-motorized transportation in Seattle.

Sincerely,



John Beaulaurier
Secretary, Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council
Resolution 25534