

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

September 10, 2009

The Honorable Raymond LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

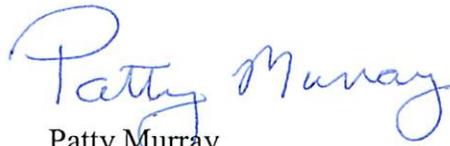
I am pleased to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Mercer Corridor Project.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation corridor that carries more than 80,000 people a day. It has been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, limiting access to the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront and the Seattle Center. This project is increasingly important because it supports growth in four key sectors of Washington's economy including: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade. Major employers including the University of Washington Medical Center and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center will also be served through this project.

Funding from the TIGER grant is essential to completing the Mercer Corridor project. The project will immediately create approximately 600 direct construction jobs, and also support the growth of Seattle's Center City, the economic engine of the Pacific Northwest. Along with providing economic support to major businesses, the project will support the public infrastructure within the South Lake Union neighborhood, allowing growth and creation of a sustainable urban center.

I commend the City of Seattle in their continued efforts with the Mercer Corridor Project. Thank you for your full consideration of their application. Please do not hesitate to contact my Seattle office at 206-553-5545 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

PM/jb

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