

**HNTB Corporation**  
The HNTB Companies  
Engineers Architects Planners

801 Second Avenue  
Suite 301  
Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone (206) 802-1800  
Facsimile (206) 802-1801  
www.hntb.com

August 26, 2009



The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Mercer Corridor is a gateway into the City of Seattle, connecting two major North-South arteries – I-5 and SR 99. It is in poor condition and in dire need of repairs. Commuters, tourists, the travelling public, bicyclists, pedestrians, multiple modes of transit and large trucks use the Mercer Corridor to travel into the heart of the City and to transport goods. The current conditions of the Mercer Corridor are dangerous to all modes of transportation and it is extremely costly in interim repairs to maintain daily operations, and raises significant concerns for the safety of the travelling public. These costs are passed on directly to the City of Seattle, the State of Washington, and thus our Federal Government and taxpayers nationwide.

The Mercer Corridor improvements are currently designed and ready for construction to break ground in early 2010, with a projected completion date of November 2012. With the funds requested in this TIGER Grant, the City of Seattle can begin construction on the Mercer Corridor as scheduled, preventing further deterioration and avoiding the costly upkeep that is currently required to keep this corridor operational. Significant jobs for construction trade workers, materials suppliers, equipment rentals and local service industry providers will be created immediately. This majority of this project relies on construction labor, rather than major equipment, thus providing higher number of employment opportunities.

In addition to these short term jobs, completion of this corridor will have far reaching effects on the Seattle community – providing direct connections from commuters to the north and south to employers in downtown Seattle; tourist access to Seattle's City center, downtown and waterfront; and for cargo and freight movement from Seattle's ports and waterfront to north, south and eastern destinations. The ease of movement in and out of these critical economic engines of Seattle will directly benefit our city for both the and long and short term, and provide sustainable solutions for our community at large.

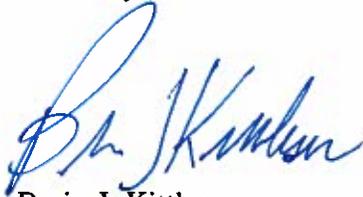
Allotting TIGER grant funds for the construction of Mercer Corridor on schedule is an excellent example of how the Federal Stimulus Package is working to help strengthen our country's future, one community at a time.

Private developers have already begun construction along the Mercer Corridor, and private investors have contributed funds to this project, trusting that the completion of this corridor will quickly bring sustainable businesses, employers and residents to this growing area. In addition, the current bidding climate is extremely competitive, which means that if this project goes out to bid as scheduled, it will be constructed in the most efficient and cost effective means possible.

These TIGER Grant funds are truly a catalyst for further investments in this corridor. Upon receipt of this funding, other entities including local governments, utility owners, private property owners and local businesses will invest capital for the revitalization of this area.

Please approve the Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application so that the residents and visitors of the City of Seattle can rely upon this gateway to our city to retain and attract sustainable economic development and allow us to traverse our city safely and efficiently for years to come.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Kittleson  
Construction Manager

**cc:**

Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin