

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 4, 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:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Seattle's application for \$50 million in TIGER funding for the Mercer Corridor Project.

The Mercer Corridor is the spine that supports the expansion of the new economy in Seattle. It is the "Road to Global Health" providing essential transportation infrastructure for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of Washington School of Medicine, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and other growing biotechnology and information technology centers.

Federal Recovery Act funding is absolutely essential to complete the corridor improvements needed to sustain the expansion of the biotechnology and information technology sectors in the South Lake Union area. In its current condition, Mercer Street simply cannot adequately support the infrastructure needs of these family-wage jobs.

With federal Recovery Act funding, we have the opportunity to create a much more livable and walkable community, and improve mobility and key connections to the Port of Seattle and other job centers. The Mercer Corridor project will transform the public infrastructure within the South Lake Union neighborhood, supporting smart growth and creation of a vibrant and sustainable urban center. The project would build or improve more than 30 blocks of sidewalks and install new bicycle lanes that connect to the urban trail system. It will increase the functionality, speed and reliability of the area's South Lake Union Streetcar and it will complete key segments of the Lake to Bay Trail and the Cheshiahud Trail around Lake Union.

I urge your serious consideration of Seattle's Mercer Corridor Project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT  
Member of Congress