



325 Eastlake Avenue East  
PO Box 778  
Seattle, WA 98111-0778

Aug. 28, 2009

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

Re: Support for Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Mercer Street is a critical transportation corridor that carries more than 80,000 people a day. It's known, and rightfully so, as the Mercer Mess in the Seattle area because it's a major traffic bottleneck impeding access to I-5 and 520, the growing lower Queen Anne and South Lake Union neighborhoods, the Seattle waterfront and freight terminals, and the Seattle Center.

The Mercer Corridor Project is critical to keeping people, goods, and services moving in Seattle and throughout the region. With federal Recovery Act funding, we have the opportunity to create a livable, walkable community and to improve mobility and access in rapidly developing areas of Seattle.

By addressing the Mercer Mess, this project will contribute to growth in four key sectors of Washington's economy: bio-med and life sciences, information technology, travel, tourism, and international trade. It will leverage over \$31 million in private contributions from adjacent property owners and will create synergy with public and private investments in the area, including Lake Union Park, Amazon headquarters, University of Washington Medical Center, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Group Health Cooperative.

The project will:

- restore some of the worst pavement conditions in the city
- improve safety at seven high-accident locations, reducing collisions and resulting injuries
- improve pedestrian safety



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- build or improve more than 30 blocks of sidewalks and new bicycle lanes.

As a large employer in the area for over 60 years with hundreds of our employees traveling this route daily, working here, and even living in this area, we see firsthand the need for improvement. We strongly support the Mercer Corridor Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan W. McNaughton".

Stan W. McNaughton  
CEO  
PEMCO Mutual Insurance Company  
325 Eastlake Ave. E.  
Seattle, WA 98109

Cc:  
Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin