



August 21, 2009

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

RE: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Sellen Construction is a privately held company located in the South Lake Union area of Seattle, Washington. Our business has been located in this neighborhood since our founding in the early 1940's. We've seen a lot of changes in the neighborhood since our early days - from the early industrial warehouses to the now bustling information technology, biotechnology, corporate and non-profit organizations that we call neighbors. Almost weekly, we're welcoming new businesses to the area; residents are moving-in; pedestrians are taking to the streets to walk to cafes, restaurants, and grocery stores; and construction trucks are rolling along arterials constructing new buildings for Amazon.com, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and University of Washington's School of Medicine.

While many exciting changes have come to our neighborhood, one thing that hasn't changed is the congestion along the Mercer Corridor. It's referred to as the Mercer Mess because it is a major bottleneck in the Seattle area that impedes access to I-5, SR-520, and many growing neighborhoods in Seattle. As a general contractor working on several projects along Mercer Street, our business is impacted daily by the congestion - ingress and egress of labor, material, and debris takes longer each day. It is critical to keep people, goods and services moving along Mercer - it makes for a more livable, walkable community, as well as improves efficiency for our construction projects and strengthens our company's bottom line.

It is our hope that the funding from the TIGER grant will ensure the success of the Mercer Corridor Project, enhancing the community for businesses, residents, and visitors alike. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Scott B. Redman  
President

Cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin