

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

Re: City of Seattle MERCER WEST TIGER IV application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

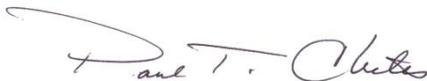
Chiles & Company, as a Mercer Corridor business, feels compelled to write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

We know that Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection and we were somewhat surprised to learn that it carries more than 70,000 people a day. Most every Seattleite knows that the "Mercer mess" has been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, limiting access to the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront, the Seattle Center, and I 5 and highway 99.

As you may know, the State of Washington, through the initiative process, has eliminated any preferences based on race and gender. This has further disadvantaged business of color and women owned businesses in our communities. Federal spending comes with federal requirements, and that makes a difference as this project will create over 500 direct jobs, providing an economic boost to our region and potentially communities of color.

There are other compelling reasons why support for this grant application but in the interest of brevity, I have chosen to focus on the benefits to all Seattleites and secondary benefit to the communities of color with increased employment prescribed by federal spending that would likely not otherwise occur.

Sincerely,  
Chiles & Company

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul T. Chiles". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Paul Chiles, President