



The Center for  
WOODEN BOATS

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March 05, 2012

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:

I am pleased 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.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day. It 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 major federal and state highways. This project is vital because it supports four key sectors of the regional economy including: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade.

The Center for Wooden Boats sits in the heart of South Lake Union, where we provide a diverse range of educational and recreational programs for people of all ages and abilities. Thousands more visitors come each year just to rent one of our classic boats, stroll our docks or participate in our annual Wooden Boat Festival. It is critical that the public has clear means of accessing our location from our local area and from the wider Seattle region. The Mercer improvements will provide us with vital public and private transportation links and improved pedestrian and bicycle connections with the surrounding area.

I encourage full funding of the MERCER WEST TIGER IV application. The Mercer Corridor is the main portal to a very vital part of Seattle and needs to be improved to keep the city's economic and cultural center self-sustaining.

Sincerely,

Dick Wagner, Founding Director  
The Center for Wooden Boats

**cc:**

Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Congressman Jim McDermott  
Mayor Mike McGinn, Seattle

***Our Mission:** To provide a gathering place where maritime history comes alive through direct experience and our small craft heritage is enjoyed, preserved, and passed along to future generations.*