



Magnolia Community Club

MAGNOLIA'S COMMUNITY COUNCIL

March 12, 2012

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Magnolia
Community Club
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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:

On behalf of the Magnolia Community Club, which works to represent the 24,000 residents of our neighborhood community on the northwest side of Seattle, I write in support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project.

From the onset of the initiative to replace the above ground Highway 99 Viaduct with a tunnel, our community of Magnolia and other affected communities have continually requested an adequate northwest access route to the tunnel's North Portal for local neighborhoods, businesses, industries, commerce and freight. The City of Seattle and the Washington State Department of Highways representatives have repeatedly stated that timely completion of the Mercer West Project is integral to assuring an adequate flow of traffic for future east - west access to and from I-5 and the new North Portal to Highway 99 tunnel that is presently under construction.

The Magnolia Community Club has been working for the past several years in close cooperation with the multi organizational Mercer Corridor Stakeholder Group to ensure that the Mercer West Project be promptly funded so that the work can be completed as sequenced by the hundreds of integrated transportation construction schedules developed by representatives of the City of Seattle (SDOT) and Washington State Department of Highways (WSDOT).

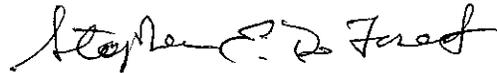
State and City representatives have repeatedly advised that timely completion of the Mercer West project is essential so that the W. Mercer

improvements will be in place to facilitate access to the North Portal and I-5 once the existing Highway 99 Viaduct is removed and the new Alaskan Way is being constructed. This will be a period of approximately three years in which communities to the northwest will not have north south access other than through the North Portal while the old Viaduct is being demolished and the new Alaska Way corridor is being constructed.

It makes little sense to expend billions of dollars on the Highway 99 tunnel (Viaduct replacement) and other associated transportation projects without timely funding of this key east west corridor so Seattleites living and working in the northwest sector of the City may have adequate access to I-5 and the North Portal of Highway 99.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen DeForest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" being the most prominent.

Stephen DeForest
President, Magnolia Community Center

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

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