



Greater Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce
In the heart of Seattle

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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

March 2, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Greater Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce in Seattle is pleased to show our support for 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.

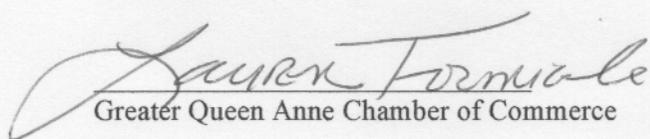
The Mercer Corridor has been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area for decades, limiting access to our neighborhood of Queen Anne, the waterfront, the Seattle Center, and major federal and state highways. It is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day. This project is vital because it supports residential and business interests, including four important sectors of our regional economy, including: information technology, biotechnology, tourism, and international trade.

This project will create over 500 direct jobs, providing an economic boost to our region. The Mercer West project will extend street, bicycle and sidewalk improvements from Ninth Avenue North to Queen Anne Avenue North, which include badly needed pedestrian and bicycle connections between the Queen Anne and South Lake Union neighborhoods.

Funding the Mercer West project is also critical to the success of other major transportation projects. Mercer West links the Seattle Center, the Port of Seattle, and neighborhoods in northwest Seattle with the SR99 Bored Tunnel replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct. All the planning around the downtown tunnel assumed that Mercer West would move forward.

Without it, we can't take advantage of the investments we've already made. Please grant us this much-needed funding.

Sincerely,


Greater Queen Anne Chamber of Commerce
cc:

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