

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Ray 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 write to express my strong support for the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Funding from this grant would be dedicated to the Two-Way Mercer West project. With improved access to Seattle's growing regions the Mercer West project will generate growth, and at the same time improve quality of life through better environmental standards.

The Mercer West Corridor is a vital project for the economic well being of the greater Seattle area. The corridor carries more than 700,000 commuters each day, yet has been a major traffic bottle neck that has restricted access to some of the fastest growing areas of Seattle, including South Lake Union, the Seattle Center and the Seattle waterfront. By improving ease of access and reducing traffic congestion, the Mercer West extension will provide an opportunity for a great deal of economic expansion and growth.

Furthermore, there will be many social benefits for the greater Seattle community. In addition to the creation of over 500 direct jobs, the Mercer West extension will provide desperately needed pedestrian and bicycle connections between Queen Anne and South Lake Union while opening the Seattle Center grounds for citizens to take full advantage of the amenities provided. The extension will reduce 5,000 vehicle miles travelled in the downtown area and, through the use of concrete, will provide increased fuel economy, thus increasing the environmental benefits of the project. There will also be improvements to the stormwater system in a traditional flooding area where overflow has occasionally closed the highway.

I urge you to strongly consider the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding. With proper support we have ample opportunity to create an efficient, sustainable corridor that will provide great social and environmental benefits for the community.

Sincerely,



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress