



King County

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104
www.kingcounty.gov

March 9, 2012

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of King County, we are writing in support of the City of Seattle's TIGER grant application for the Mercer West Corridor Project. The Mercer Corridor is a vital east-west connection in the center of our county's largest city, Seattle, and the construction of this project in conjunction with the state's Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement project is a top regional priority which King County fully supports.

More than a decade ago, the State of Washington, City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, King County and local property owners came together to find a solution for regional transportation that would address SR99 replacement due to the threat of failure from seismic activity. This included addressing a critical east-west component to facilitate the movement of SR99 users across town and to I-5, SR 520 and I-90, to facilitate freight traffic from the Port of Seattle, improve transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic development, reduce regional congestion and improve the transportation environment for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit. The solution is a two-way Mercer corridor, which this TIGER request would fund as the last-dollar-in.

As a county, we take seriously the need to facilitate economic development – this includes supporting industry, freight, economic growth—while balancing the quality of life of our residents—pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This project meets and exceeds all of those ideals. This project has been fully vetted by the respective governments and, just as importantly, the community—and all agree this is the best solution to support growth and trade while making connections easier, healthier, and more sustainable.

The Mercer corridor is a growing region in the City of Seattle. By the year 2015, it is estimated that the total jobs along the corridor would grow by more than 247 percent from the current estimate of 24,460 jobs to a total of 60,357 jobs. The corridor is home to major players in the Global Health Community and is also home the world's largest online retailer, Amazon.com. This project will provide necessary transportation improvements to continue to

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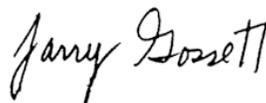
facilitate economic growth in this crucial area of the city, and as the regional transit operator, we continue to partner with the City in ensuring this population growth is accommodated by our seven high ridership bus routes that intersect this corridor, including our RapidRide bus rapid transit program (D line and E line).

For these and many other reasons, we encourage you and the Department of Transportation to support the application for TIGER funds for the Mercer Corridor Project in Seattle.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive



Larry Gossett
Chair, King County Council
District Two



Larry Phillips
King County Councilmember
District Four



Bob Ferguson
King County Councilmember
District One



Joe McDermott
King County Councilmember
District Eight