

# SEATTLE/KING COUNTY BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

Chartered by Building and Construction Trades Dept. • AFL-CIO

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LEE NEWGENT, Executive Secretary

STEVE MENNE, President



March 12, 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:

The Seattle/King County Building Trades is 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.

This project will create up to 600 much needed construction jobs for our members that have been hard hit by this current recession. The effects of the recovery are still not being seen in our area's construction industry. Mercer West has always been part of the discussion of our deep bore tunnel project to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct. Without Mercer West being a fully implementable instrument we may not get the fullest return on investments already made.

This corridor is key for our local manufacturing and industrial centers, as well as our thriving fishery industry. The Port of Seattle relies on this throughway for freight and cruise ship terminal traffic. Seattle has thriving sectors of industry located within the South Lake Union neighborhood. Information technology and biotechnology jobs are a key component to this area's phenomenal success in the last decade. These jobs need places to call home, and our members get to build these companies their dreams.

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Without taking the time to upgrade our infrastructure we will be at an economic disadvantage in the future. Seattle's Comprehensive Plan calls for increased density in 38 urban centers, of which South Lake Union is one. With improvements to the roadway and sidewalks for pedestrians and bicyclists we can create a reduction of 5,000 vehicle miles travelled. All of this while planning for the future through sustainable building practices of roads and structures.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



LEE NEWGENT  
Executive Secretary

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

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