

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

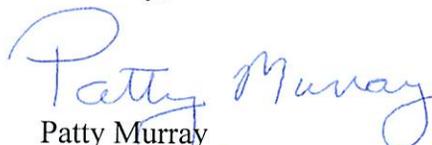
I am writing in support of the application submitted by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) IV* program for the Mercer West project.

SDOT is requesting \$14 million for much needed improvements along the westbound Mercer Street thoroughfare. The project includes realignment of Mercer to increase mobility, critical seismic upgrades to shore up the tunnel walls under Aurora Avenue, and safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists with the addition of dedicated pathways and wider sidewalks.

The Mercer Street Corridor is a vital link between downtown Seattle, South Lake Union, the Port of Seattle and surrounding urban neighborhoods. Serving some of the cities' larger employers, located in the developing South Lake Union area, such as the University of Washington, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Amazon.com, PATH and RealNetworks, this project is necessary to ensure the Mercer Corridor can efficiently and safely handle the increase in multi-modal transportation.

Successful completion of the Mercer project will increase mobility, encourage use of transit and non-motorized transportation options, improve freight movement and access to the economically significant cruise ship industry. For these reasons, I support this project and SDOT's application for TIGER funding. Thank you for your full consideration.

Sincerely,


Patty Murray
United States Senator

PM/ab