



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

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am 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.

As the Executive Director for a Seattle-based housing organization, I am deeply invested in projects that boost the local economy and improve livability. We own and operate six affordable housing developments in the South Lake Union neighborhood, including The Bart Harvey which serves low income and formerly homeless seniors. Successful completion of the Mercer West project will impact hundreds of our residents by significantly improving pedestrian, bicycle, and rapid transit conditions in the area.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation connection that carries more than 70,000 people a day. It has been a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, limiting access to the growing South Lake Union area, the Seattle waterfront, the Seattle Center, and major federal and state highways. This project is vital because it supports four key sectors of the regional economy including: information technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade.

Additionally, I am excited about the sustainable elements of the project. It will reduce 5,000 vehicle miles traveled in the downtown and South Lake Union neighborhoods. The stormwater improvements will address historic flooding issues where Mercer crosses under Aurora. The proposed "green walls" along the north side of Mercer will contribute to urban biomass and improve aesthetics. Our organization works to incorporate sustainability and green building practices in all of our projects. I am especially proud of the green roof on The Bart Harvey, the first of its kind in our region.

Successful completion of the Mercer West project is crucial for our community. As a community leader and a resident of Seattle, I fully support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lee  
Executive Director

cc:

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

2407 1st Avenue, Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98121-1311

(206) 443-9935 Phone  
(206) 443-9851 Fax  
(800) 833-6388 TTY  
URL: [www.lihi.org](http://www.lihi.org)

