



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

Monday, March 12, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of the Museum of History & Industry, in strong support of the City of Seattle's application for the US Department of Transportation TIGER grant. The Museum of History & Industry is the largest repository of our region's history, preserving and sharing over 4 million artifacts, images, oral histories and films related to the growth and development of Seattle and the Puget Sound. In late 2012 MOHAI opens its new doors at a new museum at Lake Union Park, immediately north of the Mercer Corridor.

We believe MOHAI will be a major cultural asset for the city and the South Lake Union neighborhood. But in order for the museum to fulfill its mission and serve the region it is essential that the two-way Mercer Street project be finished on time. Currently, the Mercer and Valley intersections create an almost impossible bottleneck. However, once finished, the Mercer Corridor Project provides an effective solution to this problem and helps to ensure South Lake Union as a vibrant neighborhood and city destination.

The Mercer Corridor project will, for the first time, truly connect the Seattle waterfront, the Seattle Center, the South Lake Union neighborhood and our major federal and state highways. MOHAI is particularly encouraged by this project because of its clear enhancement to the travel and tourism industry for our region. We anticipate 120,000 annual visitors to the museum, including 20,000 school children and teachers throughout the academic year. The access this project creates, not just for vehicles, but for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as the thousands of tourists and families who visit the new museum, is vital to the area's safe and continued growth.

Sincerely,

Leonard Garfield
Executive Director

cc:

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