



**BICYCLE
ALLIANCE**

OF WASHINGTON

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August 26, 2009

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

Re: Support for Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

This purpose of this letter is to demonstrate the support of the Bicycle Alliance of Washington for the City of Seattle's Mercer Corridor Project receiving funding from its TIGER grant application.

The Bicycle Alliance, a 501(c)(3), is a state wide advocacy organization with a long history of success. While we focus on education and work closely with agencies and legislators to advocate for laws and policies that get more people bicycling, we also work hard to get facilities that provide safe and direct access and connectivity. The Mercer project is a great example. We have worked long and hard with the stakeholders and have crafted a plan that works well.

I, and many of our members, bicycle in the Mercer corridor frequently. In addition, many of the businesses and organizations located there account for hundreds of bike commuters and people attending events and using local businesses. Many of these are skilled, high paying jobs and employee satisfaction, particularly a safe and pleasurable commute are important. Much of the current road network in the corridor can be challenging to even experienced bicyclists, particularly due to pavement conditions. The project includes extensive repaving which will alleviate this problem.

What we find so appealing about the Mercer project is that it installs new bike lanes that connect to the urban trail system. It also completes key segments of the Lake to Bay Trail and the Cheshiahud Trail around Lake Union. In addition, it builds or improves more than 30 blocks of sidewalks. These additional sidewalks will prove invaluable to families bicycling with small children and those not always comfortable riding in the road. In short, it will raise the comfort level of bicyclists, improve safety, and attract more people to this corridor which is a huge regional economic engine.

For these reasons, we whole heartedly endorse the project and the grant application, and request that your agency approve it.

Thank you for your consideration on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Janis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "D" and a long, trailing "is" at the end.

Dave Janis
Acting Executive Director

Cc: Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin