



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

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The Cascadia Center is a private, non-profit transportation policy center supported by major foundations and individuals. In our policy research we have been impressed with the importance of the Mercer Corridor to this region's economy.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation corridor that carries more than 80,000 people a day. It's known as the Mercer Mess because it is a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, impeding access to I-5 and 520, the growing lower Queen Anne and South Lake Union areas, the Seattle waterfront and freight terminals, and the Seattle Center. The Mercer Corridor project is critical to keeping people, goods and services moving in Seattle and throughout the region. With federal Recovery Act funding, we have the opportunity to create a livable, walkable community and to improve mobility and access in rapidly developing areas of Seattle's Center City.

The Mercer Corridor Project is a unique public, private partnership that links the Port of Seattle to the rest of the region, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and creates approximately 600 direct construction jobs that will start up with the award of the grant.

If the Mercer Corridor Project isn't completed, thousands of jobs may be at risk. Employers will be unlikely to expand their operations without the infrastructure improvements needed to support growth. Delays to freight and commuter mobility will reduce productivity and add to overhead costs.

We strongly give our support for the City of Seattle's applications for funding for the Mercer Corridor Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Agnew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

Bruce Agnew

Director

Cascadia Center for Regional Development