



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

August 28, 2009

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER grant application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I'd like to express my support for the City of Seattle's applications for funding for the Mercer Corridor Project.

As President of Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington, one of my primary considerations must be to provide a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, and staff. We want our students to thrive intellectually and creatively and are committed to providing the best living and learning environments possible as they grow and develop as artists, citizens and innovators.

Improvements to the Mercer Corridor will directly impact our students, faculty and staff. The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation corridor that carries more than 80,000 people a day. 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 in and around downtown Seattle.

The project builds and improves more than 30 blocks of sidewalks and installs new bicycle lanes that connect to the urban trail system. Currently, the Mercer Corridor is a high-accident area. The project will improve safety at seven high accident locations, reducing collisions in the corridor. Overall vehicle and pedestrian safety in the corridor will improve with the proposed direct route to and from I-5 via Mercer Street.

The Mercer Corridor Project will greatly improve the livability and safety of Seattle's downtown neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sergei P. Tschernisch".

Sergei P. Tschernisch
President, Cornish College of the Arts

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin