

August 27, 2009

Mr. Bob Drewel
Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council
1101 Western Avenue #500
Seattle, WA 98104-1035

RE: STP funding for South Lake Union/Uptown Mercer Corridor Improvements

Dear Mr. Drewel:

I write today as a representative of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in support for federal Recovery Act funding for the Mercer Corridor Project. The Hutchinson Center's support for this grant application stems from both a concern for our employees, the future development of our South Lake Union campus, and the economic vitality of our city.

The Mercer Corridor Project will play a critical role in the economic growth of Seattle. It will support 4 key sectors of Washington's economy – Information Technology, Biotechnology, Travel and Tourism and International Trade. In addition to our employees, the project will serve those employed by the Seattle Center, the University of Washington School of Medicine, Amgen, and numerous other traditional and high-tech companies. The employees of two major projects currently nearing completion – the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Amazon.com - will also benefit from this project.

Given that the Mercer Corridor carries more than 80,000 people a day, there is significant urgency to this project. Known as the Mercer Mess, it is currently a major bottleneck in the Seattle area and impedes access to I-5 and 520, the growing lower Queen Anne and South Lake Union areas, the Seattle waterfront and its freight terminals and the Seattle Center. The Mercer Corridor project is critical to the efficient movement of people, good and services through Seattle and the region.

In addition, the project leverages over \$31 million in private contributions from adjacent property owners and creates synergy with public and private investments in an area vital to the Seattle and regional economy.

With federal Recovery Act funding, we have a wonderful, but limited an opportunity to improve mobility and access to growing areas of Seattle while creating livable and walkable neighborhoods. The public infrastructure within the South Lake Union area will be transformed by this project and will further support smart growth and the creation of a vital urban center.

The project will result in the creation or improvement of 30 blocks of sidewalks and the installation of new bike lanes that will connect to and complete the existing trails system.

As the current Mercer Corridor is a high-accident area, the project will help reduce collisions and improve safety at numerous high accident locations. The proposed direct access to and from I-5 will enhance pedestrian and vehicle safety.

For the above mentioned reason, I and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center support federal Recovery Act funding for the Mercer Corridor project and respectfully ask that you do the same. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Scott Rusch
Vice President, Facilities and Operations

August 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

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