

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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September 14, 2009

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

Re: Mercer Corridor Project TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the City of Seattle's TIGER grant application for the Mercer Corridor Project. The Mercer project will facilitate the movement of freight, improve transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic development, reduce regional congestion, and improve the transportation environment for transit, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Mercer Corridor is an essential freight corridor. According to the Port of Seattle, 1000-2000 trucks and commercial vehicles use Mercer every day. This project will enhance the movement of freight to shipping facilities and industrial fisheries in Seattle.

The Mercer corridor is a growing region in the City of Seattle. By the year 2015, it is estimated that total jobs along the corridor would grow by over 247 percent from the currently estimated 24,460 jobs to 60,357 jobs. Businesses in the area include the Amazon.com headquarters, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, ZymoGenetics and the Port of Seattle Cruise Terminal. The Mercer corridor project will provide the necessary transportation improvements to continue to facilitate economic growth in this vital area of the City of Seattle.

Additionally, Mercer Street will become a major northern connection to the Alaskan Way deep bore tunnel, which will replace the aging and vulnerable Alaskan Way Viaduct. Improvements to Mercer will ensure that the north portal of the tunnel moves traffic, even during peak hours. Improvements to mercer will allow the off-ramp from Interstate 5 to operate more efficiently, accommodating 10-25 percent more of the projected traffic.

Currently, Mercer street is challenging for buses to navigate and dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. There are no sidewalks, no bike lanes and no pedestrian crossings. The Mercer corridor project will allow transit to move efficiently throughout the corridor and provide bike connections and pedestrian safety improvements.



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The TIGER grant would allow Seattle to begin construction immediately and prevent the potential loss of thousands of jobs. I urge you to support the Mercer corridor project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Gregoire". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor