



## Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO

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August 28, 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:

The M. L. King County Labor Council urges you to support the City of Seattle's TIGER grant application for the Mercer Corridor Project. We are on record as supporting this critical mobility project for Seattle and the Puget Sound Region.

First, the Mercer Corridor Project supports the growth of Seattle's Center City, the economic engine of the Pacific Northwest. The project itself creates approximately 600 direct construction jobs that will start up with the award of the grant.

Second, the Mercer Corridor is an essential freight corridor because it links the Port to the rest of the region. It serves as the main linkage to Port of Seattle facilities on the north side of Elliott Bay, including international cruise terminals, shipping facilities, and industrial fisheries uses. It also is the key connecting route to the Ballard-Interbay Manufacturing and Industrial Center, a regionally recognized industrial area.

Third, if the Mercer Corridor Project is not 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.

Finally, 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.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

David Freiboth  
Executive Secretary

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Nancy Young, President • James Davis, Vice President • David Freiboth, Executive Secretary

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

