

August 26, 2009

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

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

Dear Mr. Drewel:

NBBJ is a global architecture and design firm located just 1 mile south of the Mercer Corridor. As a strong supporter of the Mercer Corridor Project, I write to request your support of the USDOT grant.

With such close physical proximity to what is commonly referred to as the "Mercer Mess", we are continuously affected by the traffic issues the current Corridor produces. Carrying more than 80,000 people a day, the existing Corridor is a significant traffic bottleneck preventing rapid and effective access to I-5, I-520 and the South Lake Union areas. The Mercer Street Corridor Project is critical to improving the flow of people, products and services into the city of Seattle in an efficient and safe manner.

Seattle will continue to grow as the economic hub and engine of the Pacific Northwest. In addition to NBBJ, many local employers such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, UW School of Medicine and Amgen, will require the city infrastructure necessary to support their growth. Without the Mercer Corridor Project, employers will be unlikely to expand their operations and experience reduced productivity brought on by delays to freight and commuter mobility. The Corridor Project is imperative to fuel our economic competitiveness. The project itself creates approximately 600 direct construction jobs that will start up with the award of the grant.

The Mercer Corridor Project is also critical to safety and sustainability. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and integrate innovative natural drainage features. As it exists now, the Corridor is a high-accident area. The project will alleviate this issue by improving safety at seven high-accident areas, reducing collisions in the corridor.

We hope you will support the USDOT grant to allow for this economically stimulating and safer piece of urban infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Scott Wyatt  
Managing Partner



[www.nbbj.com](http://www.nbbj.com)

August 26, 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:

NBBJ is a global architecture and design firm located just 1 mile south of the Mercer Corridor. As a strong supporter of the Mercer Corridor Project, I write to request your support of the USDOT grant.

With such close physical proximity to what is commonly referred to as the "Mercer Mess", we are continuously affected by the traffic issues the current Corridor produces. Carrying more than 80,000 people a day, the existing Corridor is a significant traffic bottleneck preventing rapid and effective access to I-5, I-520 and the South Lake Union areas. The Mercer Street Corridor Project is critical to improving the flow of people, products and services into the city of Seattle in an efficient and safe manner.

Seattle will continue to grow as the economic hub and engine of the Pacific Northwest. In addition to NBBJ, many local employers such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, UW School of Medicine and Amgen, will require the city infrastructure necessary to support their growth. Without the Mercer Corridor Project, employers will be unlikely to expand their operations and experience reduced productivity brought on by delays to freight and commuter mobility. The Corridor Project is imperative to fuel our economic competitiveness. The project itself creates approximately 600 direct construction jobs that will start up with the award of the grant.

The Mercer Corridor Project is also critical to safety and sustainability. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and integrate innovative natural drainage features. As it exists now, the Corridor is a high-accident area. The project will alleviate this issue by improving safety at seven high-accident areas, reducing collisions in the corridor.

We hope you will support the USDOT grant to allow for this economically stimulating and safer piece of urban infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Scott Wyatt  
Managing Partner

c: Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Governor Chris Gregoire