



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:

As a newcomer to the South Lake Union neighborhood, we would like to express our support for the City of Seattle's ongoing commitment to the Mercer Corridor Project.

PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. Based in Seattle, Washington, we have more than 800 staff members and offices in 30 cities in 20 countries. By January 2009, we plan to relocate more than 300 employees to our new headquarters at 2201 Westlake Avenue.

Everyday, more than 80,000 people use the Mercer Corridor. The high volume of traffic impedes access to the I-5 and SR-520 thoroughfares as well as to major areas within the city including South Lake Union. As the epicenter of key economic sectors encompassing technology, biotechnology, travel and tourism, and international trade, the corridor is critical for regional economic sustainability and growth. The measures set forth in the Mercer Corridor Project will greatly enhance the mobility of people, goods, and services not only in Seattle, but throughout the Pacific Northwest.

This investment toward transportation and public infrastructure is integral in facilitating PATH's work in the emerging market of global health. As a new employer in the South Lake Union community, we strongly support the City of Seattle's application for federal Recovery Act funding of the Mercer Corridor Project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Scott Jackson
Vice President, External Relations

Cc: Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin