



PAN PACIFIC HOTEL

Seattle

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:

As a constituent who understands the value of transportation, and whose organization is located near and directly affected by the Mercer Corridor Project, I'm writing to express my support for the TIGER grant.

The Mercer Corridor is a critical transportation corridor that carries more than 80,000 people a day. It's known as the Mercer Mess because it is a major traffic bottleneck in the Seattle area, impeding access to I-5 and 520, the growing lower Queen Anne and South Lake Union areas, the Seattle waterfront and freight terminals, and the Seattle Center. 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.

The Mercer Corridor Project supports growth in Travel and Tourism, among other sectors, and directly affects our hotel as well as our major clients. In addition, this project means jobs. At a time when we are trying to save or create 3.5 million jobs, 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 with the award of the grant.

I urge you to engage in a thoughtful and balanced approach to the discussion of offering this grant and how it will not only develop an area with much needed attention and help in the growth of our city, it will also play an important role in restoring our job market and economy to its rightful place.

David Sullivan
General Manager
Pan Pacific Hotel Seattle

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin

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