



August 19, 2009

To 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 the recognized stewards of the South Lake Union Neighborhood Plan, the SLUFAN Community Council (SLUFANCC) has been strongly supportive of the Mercer Corridor Project for the last several years. We submit this letter in support of the City of Seattle's application to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) fund for the Mercer Corridor Project.

Regarding the decades-long problem of the "Mercer Mess", the community first indicated in the 1998 South Lake Union Neighborhood Plan that the then-prevalent concept of a "Mercer Freeway" solution should be abandoned. Then, in the 2006 revised Neighborhood Plan, taking into account the needs of the emerging Lake Union Park and significant growth in the neighborhood, the Mercer Corridor Project became a top priority project in order to meet transportation, safety, quality-of-life, and sustainability goals in the overall Neighborhood Plan.

In more recent planning efforts, including SLUFAN's participation in the broadly-based Mercer Corridor Stakeholder Committee, comprised of more than 30 stakeholder groups, the committee unanimously agreed that the Mercer Corridor Project is a vital element in a comprehensive transportation scheme stretching from I-5 to Elliot Avenue and reconnecting two growing urban centers. The current design and configuration of the Mercer Corridor will greatly improve auto, freight, bicycle, and pedestrian movements – over 80,000 people daily – thru both the South Lake Union and Uptown Urban Centers, as well as the needs of Seattle Center area facilities and organizations.

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.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "St Paget". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven Paget, Chair  
SLUFAN Community Council

SLUFAN Board members:

*Steven Paget, Chair SLUFAN CC Board*

*Dawn Oliver, Vice-chair SLUFAN CC Board*

*Pearl Leung, Secretary SLUFAN CC*

*Robbie Phillip, Treasurer SLUFAN CC*

*Jerry Dinndorf, Co-chair SLUFAN CC Planning & Policy Committee*

*John Savo, Co-chair SLUFAN CC Planning & Policy Committee*

*Lloyd Douglas, Cascade Neighborhood Council Representative*

*Michael Blumson*

*Dan Foltz*

*Robert Grossman*

*Jason McKinney*

CC:

Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin