



August 28, 2009

The honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Reference: **Mercer Corridor Project - TIGER Grant Application**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As the owners of a specialty construction company with over 250 employees, we are writing to express our support for the Mercer Corridor Project located in Seattle, Washington. This project leverages over \$31 million dollars in private contributions from local property owners. This creates a new level of community spirit in our economy. This is truly a testament of the overwhelming support of this vital project. The Information Technology, Biotechnology, Travel and Tourism, and International Trade business sectors will all benefit from the much needed repair of the Mercer Corridor. In particular, we are excited that this single project will create approximately 600 direct construction jobs that will begin immediately with the award of the grant. These are real jobs right now that will affect our local work force and their families. There are over 700 unemployed skilled electricians in our union local 46 alone.

Our business dependents on the timely and the efficient movement of freight and a skilled work force that resides throughout the metro area. Quick, easy, and safe access to I-5, SR-520, and I-90 are essential to the growth of our customers and the success of our company. The current Mercer corridor carries more than 80,000 people a day and is a critical component to the growing lower Queen Anne and South Lake Union areas as well as the Seattle waterfront, freight terminals and the Seattle Center. With Federal Recovery Act funding, we have the opportunity to create a livable and walk-able community. It also improves the safety and mobility of this rapidly developing part of Seattle.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,  
**Sequoyah Electric, LLC**

Dave E. Nichols  
President, Owner

Mahmood Ghassemi  
Vice President, Owner

Cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin