



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:

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 4 key sectors of Washington's economy: Information Technology, Biotechnology, Travel and Tourism, and International Trade. Major employers served by the project include Seattle Center, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington School of Medicine, Amgen and numerous other traditional and high-tech media companies. New headquarters complexes for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Amazon.com are currently under construction and are contributing to the cost of the project.

The project transforms the public infrastructure within the South Lake Union neighborhood, supporting smart growth and creation of a vibrant and sustainable urban center. It builds or improves more than 30 blocks of sidewalks and installs new bicycle lanes that connect to the urban trail system. It completes key segments of the Lake to Bay Trail and the Cheshiahud Trail around Lake Union.

The Blume Company is a longtime stakeholder in the Lake Union area. Our success, and the success of the companies that occupy our commercial buildings, depends on the improvement of the area infrastructure. We thank you for your consideration of this project for the TIGER grant.

Sincerely,

Tara Raymond
Director of Marketing and Community Relations

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin



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

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

Dear Mr. Drewel:

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Sincerely,

Tara Raymond
Director of Marketing and Community Relations

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Council President Richard Conlin