

# UW Medicine

---

August 24, 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:

UW Medicine submits this letter in support of the City of Seattle's application for the federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding for the Mercer Corridor Project.

The Mercer Corridor is not only a critical transportation corridor that carries over 80,000 people per day, it is also a connector between some of the world's most pioneering biomedical research and biotechnology organizations. From the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center at the east end of Mercer Street, to the University of Washington School of Medicine and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation along Mercer, and Amgen at the very west end of the corridor, it is clear why many have dubbed the Mercer Corridor "The Road to Global Health."

Despite this, unless the current Mercer Street can be fixed and become safer for all, thousands of jobs may be at risk. Employers will be unlikely to expand their operations in the area without the infrastructure improvements needed to support their increased activity. In addition, the growth of the biotech and biomedical research sector in this area will suffer.

UW Medicine strongly supports the Mercer Corridor Project and urges you to support funding for the project.

Sincerely,



Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.  
CEO, UW Medicine  
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and  
Dean of the School of Medicine,  
University of Washington

cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Representative Jim McDermott  
Mayor Greg Nickels

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Governor Christine Gregoire  
Council President Richard Conlin

Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.