King County

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May 27, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the City of Seattle's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2015 TIGER Discretionary Grants Program to fund the Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education Project, which includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing Interstate 5 (I-5), other safety improvements near the Northgate Transit Center, and a major expansion of Seattle's bike share network.

King County supports funding for this proposed project, which will provide a safer and more direct connection across Interstate 5 between the community west of the freeway and King County Metro's Northgate Transit Center, and the future Sound Transit Link Light Rail Station. It would also improve pedestrian and bicycle access between the North Seattle Community College campus and the Northgate Urban Center, located on opposite sides of I-5.

This project would reduce interaction between bikers/walkers and the heavy vehicle traffic in the Northgate neighborhood and would encourage transit ridership in the neighborhood east of Interstate 5. It also provides more non-motorized travel options that are affordable and contribute to livability in a community slated to be a regional transit-oriented development center.

By making the use of non-motorized transportation quicker, easier, and safer, this bridge and bike share implementation will result in lower greenhouse gas emission and fossil fuel consumption and reduce parking demand, allowing for the construction of smaller and less expensive parking facilities. It will also improve non-motorized access to the transit center for residents of Seattle's Bitter Lake, Licton Springs, and North Park neighborhoods, which are home to an above-average number of economically disadvantaged residents.

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I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation's consideration of this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

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