



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

June 3, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the University of Washington I am pleased to offer the University's enthusiastic and unqualified endorsement of the City of Seattle's 2015 TIGER proposal – Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education.

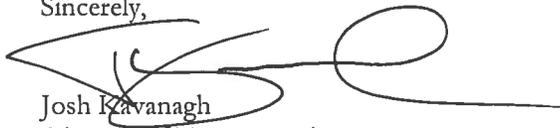
Education is among the most powerful ladders of opportunity that exist. Providing access to that ladder demands removing both the physical barriers and financial barriers associated with student transportation. I am delighted that the City of Seattle's proposal directly addresses both of these challenges. By taking bikesharing to underserved communities within Seattle and constructing the Northgate pedestrian bridge, this project will remove physical mobility barriers. By targeting the active modes, this project reduces transportation costs for students and opens up lower-cost housing opportunities throughout the City – reducing the total cost of an education. Affordable access is the first rung of the educational ladder of opportunity and this proposal strengthens it substantially.

The University of Washington has already gone to great lengths to address the challenge of affordable access. Sixty percent of our undergraduate students receive financial aid and more than twenty percent of students pay no tuition or fees whatsoever. We have invested heavily to ensure that all students have an unlimited right to ride transit pass. However, without the first mile solutions offered by the City's TIGER proposal, these efforts will still fall short of reaching our community where they live. We stand with the City of Seattle in asking you to help us strengthen that first rung by creating affordable access to educational opportunity.

We recognize that the University of Washington cannot meet the educational needs of all our region's students alone. Together with our community college and private university partners, we can help provide students with the right educational opportunity for each student's unique situation and career aspirations. We are excited that this project serves the full breadth of Seattle's post-secondary education community and that it establishes credible, low-cost, multimodal connections among those institutions, allowing us to collaborate more actively in serving the region's students.

This is a stellar project that will have a meaningful impact for our campus and a transformational impact in the communities we serve. I appreciate USDOT's consideration of the City of Seattle's proposal for Northgate Non-Motorized Access to Transit and Education and strongly encourage your support.

Sincerely,



Josh Kavanagh
Director of Transportation
University of Washington