

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

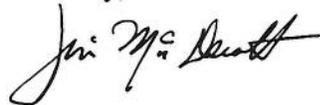
I write to express my strong support for the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund construction of the Northgate Link Light Rail Station Non-Motorized Access Project. This project includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing Interstate 5 (I-5) and other safety improvements at the Northgate Transit Center and Sound Transit's Link Light Rail Northgate Extension project.

Bisecting the neighborhood, I-5 currently hinders growth and development around Seattle's Northgate Urban Center, a designated regional growth center. As I-5 runs north and south through the neighborhood, it inhibits access between the amenities and services on the west and east side of the Interstate. North Seattle College and Northwest Hospital are located on the west side of the freeway, while the east side boasts a new community center and library, a regional shopping center, other medical facilities, and the future home of the Northgate Link Light Rail Station – not to mention residential areas and parks on both sides. The lack of any reasonable bicycle and pedestrian connection across I-5 limits the potential of both areas and limits access to the transit-oriented development that is anticipated to follow the opening of the Link Rail segment.

Northgate is one of Seattle's more affordable neighborhoods and includes a higher proportion of economically disadvantaged populations than the city as a whole. By improving access throughout the neighborhood we will help ensure that this population can have better access to job centers throughout the region.

I urge you to strongly consider the City of Seattle's application for TIGER funding. With proper support, we have an opportunity to transform an auto-oriented neighborhood into a significant mixed use area that will provide great social and environmental benefits for the community.

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress