

Received by email

April 24, 2014

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

Re: City of Seattle NORTHGATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE TIGER application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in strong support of the application for TIGER grant funding for the Northgate pedestrian and bicycle bridge. I write from the perspective of having a visual impairment and using a cane as a walking aid. I walk or use transit to get where I need or want to go. As Vice-chair of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board and active member of advocacy groups such as Transportation Choices Coalition and the Transit Riders Union I have been involved in many of the discussions and planning around this project to date.

The existing I-5 crossings in this area have many issues. They are unsafe, have hills, broken sidewalks, no sidewalks, highway on and off ramps that are difficult to cross. Having this bridge will be the best, safest, easiest – the only good way for crossing I-5. Northgate is an area of big blocks that has been designed around car usage for a long time. There have been some changes at Northgate for people but more work is needed on sidewalks and pedestrian features.

This bridge is a very important one-time lifetime project. It is like the 50's when Northgate was farm land country. Then I-5 was built and the mall and then things changed to be built around the car. Now it is 2014 and we are building a light rail train system and station that is supposed to be for people, not parking garages and cars. I have a saying "It is Sound Transit not Sound Parking". We need to get Northgate designed for the 21st century which is for people, sidewalks and transit, not cars. This bridge will be a very big element for change of the Northgate area and for any one that walks, bikes or takes transit.

I urge your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Jacob Struiksma

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
Congressman Jim McDermott
Mayor Edward B. Murray Seattle