



## King County

### Department of Transportation

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April 21, 2014

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

RE: City of Seattle Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge TIGER Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The King County Department of Transportation is pleased to provide this letter of support for the City of Seattle's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation 2014 TIGER Discretionary Grants program. Funding from this grant will help to build the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, a component of the Northgate Link Light Rail Station Non-motorized Access Project.

King County supports the proposed pedestrian bridge that will provide a safer and direct connection across Interstate 5 (I-5) to King County Metro's Northgate Transit Center and the future Sound Transit Link Light Rail Station. This bridge will connect the community west of I-5, including the North Seattle Community College, with the amenities and services of the Northgate Urban Center, on the east side of I-5.

A new pedestrian bridge will provide a safe and convenient connection over I-5 that will reduce non-motorized interaction with the high levels of vehicle traffic and congestion that exists in the Northgate area, and will reduce the walking distance from King County Metro's Northgate Transit Center and Sound Transits Light Rail Station to the community college from 1.2 miles to approximately 0.25 miles.

The improved non-motorized access to the transit center and future light rail station will encourage increased transit ridership and reduce single occupancy vehicle congestion on arterial streets surrounding the Northgate Urban Center and on I-5.

Additionally, the pedestrian bridge will result in lower emissions of greenhouse gases, fossil fuel consumption, and help to reduce the demand for parking near the transit center and light rail station, further reducing the costs required for construction of parking facilities.

Secretary Anthony Foxx

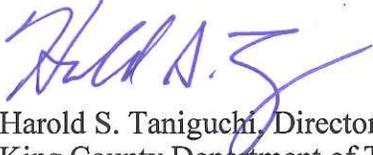
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The proposed pedestrian and bicycle bridge will make it safer and easier to travel between the community assets of the Northgate Urban Center on the east side of I-5 that includes a community center, library, bus and light rail transit facilities, and the large retail center with those on the west side of I-5 that includes North Seattle College, NW Hospital and medical facilities, parks, and neighborhood commercial areas. The pedestrian bridge, with its direct connection to the Northgate Light Rail station, will create walkable access to the regional rail service . It will also make non-motorized access to Northgate's many bus routes more attractive for those in Seattle's Licton Springs, Bitter Lake and North Park neighborhoods, which have an above average number of residents from economically disadvantaged populations.

I am pleased to support the City of Seattle's Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge TIGER proposal, and would strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation's consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Harold S. Taniguchi, Director  
King County Department of Transportation

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, United States Senate  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, United States Senate  
The Honorable Jim McDermott, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Edward Murray, City of Seattle