City of Seattle

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

Stewards of the Pedestrian Master Plan

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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:

On behalf of the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board, I am writing in strong support of the application for TIGER grant funding for the Northgate pedestrian and bicycle bridge. The need for this project was identified in the Pedestrian Master Plan adopted by the City in 2009, as well as in many other plans. This Board has, along with and at the request of other stakeholders, observed and provided input for the planning process to date. We were pleased to see the proposal for a bridge remain in the individual plans of the various agencies involved; pleased to see the agencies increasingly work together on planning; and pleased when funds were committed to the project.

This is a bridge both literal and figurative, which has generated many discussions and insights among stakeholders and implementing agencies over modal hierarchies, needs of various users, and how best to balance current and future transit ridership generators. Such balance is not easy, and having come to this level of planning agreement is a positive indicator of successful project completion once sufficient funding is provided.

It is a rare and wonderful occurrence when a single project has such broad support and can provide such a wide range of significant benefits, including transportation connectivity, safety, educational opportunity, housing and land use, economic, social equity, environmental and health benefits, both local and regional. The positive impacts will extend beyond the bridge and station locale, generating other connectivity and network access improvements. This project, years in planning, now has a brief time window and an additional funding gap to be bridged to bring it to fruition.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board is excited about the possibilities this project will create and strongly urges your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Lydia Heard

Lydia Heard, Chair
Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

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

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

~City Council Resolution 28791

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