



April 17, 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:

Sound Transit is pleased to support the City of Seattle TIGER grant application for the Northgate Link Light Rail Station Non-motorized Access Project, including the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge. Sound Transit envisions a world-class transit hub at Northgate that will be one of the highest performing stations in the whole Link Light Rail system. A big part of Sound Transit's commitment is providing easy, safe access to Northgate Station for riders arriving by all modes. That commitment includes providing \$10 million in local funds towards access improvements in the Northgate neighborhood including the pedestrian and bicycle bridge project. A TIGER grant would provide the remaining funds needed to construct this project.

The need for this project has been identified in a number of local and regional plans including the Northgate Coordinated Transportation Investment Plan and Seattle's Bicycle Master Plan as a priority facility improvement. Strong community demonstrated through the Puget Sound Regional Council's Growing Transit Communities effort and the project is also identified as a key connection within the Regional Bicycle Network.

The pedestrian and bicycle bridge will provide a safe, convenient and direct connection to Sound Transit's Northgate Link Station from destinations on the east side of I-5 (community center, library, rapid bus transit facilities, regional shopping center) as well as the west side of I-5 (North Seattle College, NW Hospital and medical facilities, parks and neighborhood commercial areas). With two and four-year degree programs, North Seattle College serves more than 14,000 students.

With its direct connection to the Northgate Link station, the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge will also provide safe and easy access to regional light rail service for a much greater proportion of North Seattle residents including those of Licton Springs, Bitter Lake and North Park neighborhoods, which have an above average number of residents from economically disadvantaged populations. Non-motorized access is an important rung on the ladder of opportunity, presenting a low cost, healthy means of transport (with beneficial environmental effects).

A federal partnership on this critical regional project is essential to leverage needed resources to move the project forward. I strongly support the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge project and the benefits it provides for local and regional transit users.

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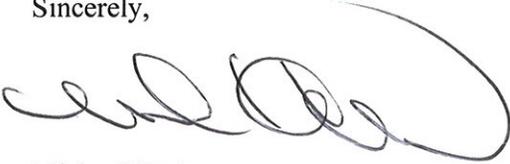
Peter von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Joni Earl

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Seattle's TIGER application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Harbour', written in a cursive style.

Michael Harbour
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

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