



Jeff Aken, Co-Chair  
Kristi Rennebohm Franz,  
Co-Chair  
Lara Normand, Secretary

Adam Bartz  
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Merlin Rainwater  
Ester Sandoval  
Michael Wong

June 2, 2015

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

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Co-Chairs of the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) and on behalf of the full board, we are writing in strong support of the City of Seattle's TIGER application for construction of the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge with expanded bike-share network.

The SBAB was created by a Seattle City Council Resolution to advise the Mayor, City Council and all City Departments on issues, policies and funding affecting people who ride bikes for transportation. We are the stewards of the adopted City of Seattle Bicycle Master Plan. We support this project being funded because it significantly moves Seattle forward in achieving the **Seattle Bicycle Master Plan Goals of Safety, Equity, Connectivity, Ridership and Livability**.

The City's Bicycle Master Plan identifies the need for this project as a critical **safe connection** between the Northgate Link Light Rail Station, North Seattle College, and other key employers. The bridge will also provide **equity of services for all ages and abilities of residents choosing to ride bikes and walk for transportation**. This project is important for **equitable connection** to the light rail system for lower income neighborhoods in the Northgate

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

- City Council  
Resolution 25534



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communities and where there are significant numbers of immigrant and refugee residents. The project **meets the connectivity goal** of the Bicycle Master Plan by providing the key East-West connections that Seattle is needing to address in the Northgate community.

The safe bicycle infrastructure provided with implementation of this project will significantly **increase bicycle ridership** of residents who previously felt unsafe choosing bicycles for transportation. Having this bridge in place will increase safety for all transportation modes by providing safe physical separation between people who are walking and riding bikes from people who are driving, transit, freight and cars. This translates into decreased collisions, reduced congestion and **increased livability** for all residents and visitors to this area of our city.

Because TIGER grants are so competitive, past awards have gone to projects that are innovative in addressing more than one problem; to projects that make the most of previous federal and other investment; and to projects that provide ladders of opportunity for people of all incomes.

This project excels in meeting all of those criteria. The bridge and bike share network will dramatically expand the destinations accessible by the new light rail service, will safely and efficiently connect people to educational opportunities, jobs, medical, places where they do business and other services. Enhancing and growing the city's bike share system will greatly expand the reach of both the bridge and our transit system.

As the city promotes transit-oriented development around the station – further maximizing the investment – the pedestrian and bicycle accessibility improvements are absolutely critical for success. The project benefits will extend beyond the physical bridge and

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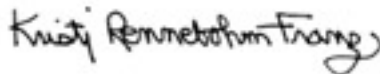
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positively impact business, housing, and economic activity in the entire area.

In addition to aligning with TIGER criteria and our Bicycle Master Plan, the project also fulfills the goals of your Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets. Seattle is a proud partner in this work. The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board strongly supports meeting the Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, strongly supports Seattle's implementation of Vision Zero goals and is excited about the possibilities this project will create in meeting those challenges and goals. We strongly urge your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,



Kristi Rennebohm Franz, Co-Chair



Jeff Aken, Co-Chair

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