The Honorab
lre Raymond H. LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 29, 2013

RE: University of Washington Burke-Gilman Trail TIGER V Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in strong support of the University of Washington’s application for funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program to finance construction of the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

I have taught and carried out research in the area of NON-MOTORIZED transportation for the past 20 years, using Seattle and the Puget Sound as my main laboratory. Without doubt, the Burke-Gilman Trail is THE essential non-motorized transportation corridor in Seattle. Trail use data and several studies show that the portion of the trail along the University of Washington has the highest volumes of bicyclists and pedestrians anywhere in the Northwest. Currently, the trail at the UW section experiences overcrowding at peak times of day and it is unsafe at several locations.

This proposed project by the UW includes widening the trail, separating bicyclists and walkers onto different trails, enhancing lighting, upgrading the trail’s ADA accessibility, building public spaces and creating safer intersections between popular footpaths, roadways and the trail. All of this would highly enhance pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the trail, which in turn would help take cars off our streets as more people would be able to use non-motorized transport safely for their commute.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. Sincerely,

Anne Vernez Moudon, Dr. es.Sc.
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