May 29, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to write in support of the University of Washington’s application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant program. Funding from this grant will be dedicated to the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector – a critical piece of non-motorized infrastructure for thousands of students, families, and commuters across the Seattle region.

The Burke-Gilman Trail serves as a spine to Seattle’s bicycle and pedestrian network by providing a safe and separated option for those that choose to walk and bike. The Trail’s growing popularity has led to a need for more capacity and safer crossings at busy intersections. Due to this overcrowding and conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, improvements to enhance the safety and capacity of the trail are critical and overdue.

With the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, the University of Washington is planning for the region’s active transportation future. We believe this is a project of national significance because of the project’s ability to leverage new light rail stations, high-density residential living, and expansions of the bicycle and pedestrian networks across the region. As our country seeks to diversify our transportation future, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and works to find cost-effective transportation solutions, the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector will serve as a model to emulate.

I am pleased to support the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, and would strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation’s consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

Barb Chamberlain  
Executive Director  
Bicycle Alliance of Washington
CC: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
Congressman Jim McDermott
President Michael K. Young, University of Washington