May 31, 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:

We are writing to express Washington Bike Law’s support for the University of Washington’s application regarding the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

Washington Bike Law primarily represents bicyclists and we are bicyclists ourselves. We are also pedestrians, and are personally and professionally aware of the conflicts, not only between motor vehicles and bicycles, but also between bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Burke-Gilman Trail is the most heavily-used trail in Washington State. Additional development, including a new light rail station, will only increase trail usage.

The Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector would improve four high-crash locations between pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, and reduce the number of pedestrian and bicycle crossings from 37 to 23. This would reduce conflicts with motor vehicles. A grade-separated crossing at Pend Oreille Road NE would eliminate a dangerous intersection with poor sight lines and heavy traffic.

Although we are lawyers who make our living representing injured bicyclists, we are also people who want live in a place where walking and biking is a safer. We believe that the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector is a step in the right direction. Please fund it.

Sincerely,

Bob Anderton  
Dave Catechi  
John McHale