May 21, 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.

The Burke-Gilman Trail is a regional treasure. It is a major recreation, transportation, and nature corridor and the most heavily-used trail in Washington state. However, in recent years, the trail’s growing popularity has led to over-crowding and conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. Additional development, including a new light rail station, is anticipated to dramatically increase trail demand.

With the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, the University of Washington is planning for the region’s active transportation future. New light rail stations, high-density residential living, and expansions of the bicycle and pedestrian networks continue to transform the region and encourage walking and bicycling. The connector compliments these efforts by creating a world-class transportation, recreation and nature corridor in the heart of the region.

The proposed project will upgrade the safety of the trail and encourage usage to increase even further. Improving the trail as proposed in the application will be of benefit to the City of Bothell and the University of Washington Bothell campus by connecting the two campuses and their surrounding population.
I am pleased to support the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector and urge the U. S. Department of Transportation’s favorable consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Stowe
City Manager

C: The Honorable Patty Murray, Senator
   The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Senator
   The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor
   The Honorable Suzan DelBene, Congresswoman
   President Michael K. Young, University of Washington
   Bothell City Council