United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705  

June 7, 2013

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

RE: University of Washington, Burke-Gilman Trail Improvements  
NOFA: Fiscal Year 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grants (TIGER V)

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing today to support the University of Washington’s TIGER V application to make improvements to the popular multimodal Burke-Gilman, the most heavily-used bicycle and pedestrian trail in all of Washington state.

The University of Washington, located in Seattle, is adjacent to the miles-long multimodal Burke-Gilman trail which stretches from the eastern suburbs of Seattle around the north end of Lake Washington to its terminus in Seattle. The trail is heavily used for commuting and recreation in the Puget Sound area. By 2030, bicycle trips on the trail are expected to increase by 238 percent, and pedestrian trips by 92 percent. Contributing to these increases is Sound Transit University Link light rail opening in 2016 and improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure on the new SR-520 floating bridge.

As a result, major improvements are needed on the Burke-Gilman trail to support transit users, bikes, and pedestrians. A TIGER V award will allow the University of Washington, a key driver of trail traffic, to widen the trail, add new grade-separated road crossings, separate bike and pedestrian users in key areas, and realign sections for safety.

I urge you to give careful and thorough consideration to the University of Washington’s application. I am strongly supportive of improving the Burke-Gilman Trail due to its critical importance to the regional multimodal trail network in Puget Sound.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator