May 30, 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 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 overcrowding 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 complements these efforts by creating a world-class transportation recreation, and nature corridor in the heart of the region.

Community Transit provides service to the University of Washington and is contracted by the University to provide regional fare passes (ORCA) to its staff and students. We enjoy a strong collaborative relationship with the University of Washington and are pleased to support its Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector project.

Sincerely,

Emmett Heath, for  
Joyce Eleanor, CEO  
Community Transit

Emmett Heath, Director of Administration