June 17, 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 pleased to write in support of the University of Washington's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant program for the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

As you know, the Burke-Gilman Trail is a major recreation, transportation, and nature corridor, and the most heavily-used trail in Washington state. Google employs over 1000 workers in the Puget Sound, and our offices in Seattle are adjacent to the trail. Many of our employees, along with numerous other Puget Sound residents, are frequent trail users. Our employees enjoy the trail not just for recreation, but as part of their commute to work. We are told that 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.

We are pleased to support the University of Washington's Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, and urge the U.S. Department of Transportation's consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ruben Ortega
Director, Google Seattle

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Director, Google Kirkland