May 31, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: University of Washington Burke-Gilman Trail TIGER V Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to support the University of Washington’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER V) grant application through the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector Project.

I believe that we must invest in a balanced and multi-modal transportation system, including roads, trains, light rail, buses, bike routes, and pedestrian trails, and I am pleased that progress is already underway in the Puget Sound region to achieve this. In the immediate vicinity of the University of Washington, the Washington State Department of Transportation is currently working to replace the SR 520 floating bridge, a critical component and regional route for consumers and freight. In addition, Sound Transit will soon be opening their temporary terminus station on the University of Washington campus, adding light rail to the existing mix of transportation options available in that area. This multi-modal approach is necessary in order to provide residents and visitors with a reliable and efficient way to get people where they need to go.

I encourage you to approve the University of Washington’s application for TIGER V funding. This is an important project with state-wide significance, and will stimulate Washington State’s economic growth. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor