May 28, 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 Multi-Modal Connector TIGER V Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the University of Washington’s Application for a US Department of Transportation TIGER V grant for the Burke-Gilman Multi-Modal Connector project.

The Trail is a wonderful resource for the people of the Seattle area. It originated as a rarely-used railroad track that was, in the mid-1970s, converted to a bicycle and pedestrian walkway that reaches from the northern-most end of Lake Washington around to Puget Sound. It’s heavily used, and the most heavily used portion of that 18 miles is the section which travels through the University of Washington, a near neighbor of this Law Office and of my residence.

I am concerned that, with the continuing growth in the neighborhood, the development of light rail, and the projected increase in Trail use (pedestrian trips are anticipated to increase an impressive 92% and bicycle trips by a whopping 238% over the next decade), the Trail requires an upgrade that will mitigate its current safety problems and address its anticipated growth needs. This grant comes at the make-or-break moment for improvements, and I sincerely hope you will consider the importance of Trail improvements to the region as a whole in making your decision.

I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to consider and approve the application that the University of Washington is submitting.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN EMERICK, JR.

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
Congressman Jim McDermott
University of Washington President Michael K. Young