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 Multi-Modal Connector 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 regional treasure. It 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.

My organization has used the trail as the route for our fundraising Walk MS event for over five years. Our group has grown to nearly 5,000 people walking from the University of Washington to Gas Works Park along the Burke-Gilman Trail. Together they raise almost a million dollars towards a world free of multiple sclerosis. The trail currently suffers from a high volume of root disruption- making the path more difficult for our participants, many of who use mobility equipment, to use.

I am pleased to support the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, and would strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation’s consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

Sarah Danilson
Senior Manager, Special Events
National MS Society, Greater Northwest Chapter

CC:
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
President Michael K. Young, University of Washington