May 24, 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,

On behalf of Public Health—Seattle & King County (PHSKC), I am pleased to write in support of the University of Washington’s application for funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program to finance construction of the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

Public Health—Seattle & King County is one of the largest metropolitan health departments in the United States. We have a stated mission around protecting and improving the health and well-being of all people in King County, including promoting better health. “Physical Activity” is one of many focus areas in which we provide data, maps, and numerous resources for individuals of all physical levels to encourage physical activity. Walking and cycling are at the top of the list and are viewed as a credible option given this region’s prioritization of and accessibility to urban trails like the Burke-Gilman.

As an organization, we have always valued the Burke-Gilman trail as a regional connector for cyclists and pedestrians and for promoting a safe, walkable route between communities and neighborhoods. By enhancing and building out the regionally critical portion of the Burke-Gilman trail in the highly-populated University area, the University of Washington (UW) is giving our region better, safer tools to allow for healthy choices in commuting, exercising, and moving between urban communities.

The University of Washington has always been a good partner to PHSKC, and we couldn’t be more supportive of this project and this application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Fleming, MD
Director and Health Officer

cc: U.S. Senator Patty Murray, 915 2nd Ave., Ste. 2988, Seattle WA 98174
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, 915 2nd Ave., Ste 3206, Seattle, WA 98174
Governor Jay Inslee, 416 Sid Snyder Ave., SW, Ste. 200, Olympia, WA 98502
Congressman Jim McDermott 1809 7th Ave., Ste 1212, Seattle, WA 98101