May 23, 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:

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 major transportation corridor for bicyclists and pedestrians and the most heavily-used trail in Washington State. In the past 10 years, UW faculty bike trips have more than tripled and student and staff bike trips have nearly doubled. Over the next decade, additional development, including a new light rail station, is expected to increase bicycle trips by 238%.

As Puget Sound Bike Share plans to launch a regional bike share system in spring 2014 including a dense network of stations in the University District, the Multi-Modal Connector will be an important component for the guaranteed success of the program. Three bike share stations are planned adjacent to the trail with a total value of $141,000, providing public access to bikes along a safe and convenient route to employment, education, retail, entertainment and services.

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,

Holly Houser
Executive Director
Puget Sound Bike Share

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