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:

Service Employees International Union Local 925 is writing you in support of the University of Washington’s TIGER grant application. The UW, with a population of over 60,000, is a larger community than many towns in Washington State and the largest employer in Seattle. As such, we experience the same transportation issue faced by all growing communities – how to safely move community members from home to work and back. As union members within our UW community we are committed to providing quality alternatives to the automobile commute for both students and employees, and we strive to reduce negative impacts upon our environment while enhancing the quality of the work commute. The current project under your consideration is innovative, thoughtfully planned, and promotes a multi-modal method of commuting for all UW community members that is proactively responsive to the region’s transportation future.

The forthcoming light rail station, planned high-density residential units, and expansions of bicycle and pedestrian networks are anticipated to further tax an already challenged treasure of the Puget Sound Region, the Burke-Gilman Trail, by encouraging bicycling and walking. The Multi-Modal Connector would help alleviate the conflicts that are already increasing between pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, while simultaneously creating a unique nature, recreation and transportation corridor. In many ways this connector would enhance a regional treasure and the quality of life for increasing numbers of UW students and employees.

We are pleased to support the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector and strongly urge your full consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Karen Hart, President
SEIU Local 925

CC: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee