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 on behalf of the Seattle Group of the Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club to strongly encourage you to accept the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Multi-Modal Connector proposal. The Burke-Gilman trail is an indispensable piece of Seattle’s bike/pedestrian infrastructure, connecting all of north Seattle’s neighborhoods with light rail, the university itself, and a host of other amenities ranging from parks and farmer’s markets to a major hospital and a stadium. Our city relies on the trail for recreation and commuting, and use for both purposes is expected to increase dramatically in the next decade: pedestrian and bike trips on the trail are expected to increase by 92 and 238%, respectively. It is imperative that we make these necessary improvements for usability and safety now to accommodate and encourage all uses of the trail, and to fulfill the promise of the soon-to-be completed UW light rail station.

The Sierra Club is dedicated to building a safe, user-friendly, highly functional bike/ped and transit infrastructure for Seattle. By facilitating non-motorized travel and use of public transportation, we will reduce our regional contributions to climate change and dependence on foreign oil, and improve local air quality and public health. This important project will serve as a bellwether for our dedication to this effort, and provide the simple benefits of making this beloved space more welcoming for all who wish to use it. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,

Dan Schwartz  
Chair, Seattle Sierra Club

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