May 31, 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

With the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, the University of Washington is planning for the region’s active transportation future. New light rail stations, high-density residential living, and expansions of the bicycle and pedestrian networks continue to transform the region and encourage walking and bicycling. The connector complements these efforts by creating a world-class transportation recreation, and nature corridor in the heart of the region.

Skanska chose a location on the Burke-Gilman Trail for our first commercial development in Seattle - an innovative, mixed-use building that is part of the City of Seattle’s Deep Green Plicit Program, because the Burke-Gilman epitomizes the natural, outdoor lifestyle of the City and our vision for the project. A major recreation, transportation, and nature corridor, it’s the most heavily used trail in the Washington state, connecting people on foot, bike, skates and skateboards to hundreds of hundreds of businesses, a stadium and arena, regional medical center and social services, museums, performing arts centers, public parks, farmers markets and more.

The tenants of our new building want to be here, in large part, because of the Burke-Gilman Trail. They want to walk or bike to work on the trail, go for a run or walk before or after work, and enjoy the activity and community that is created on and around the Trail. These businesses, including Brooks Sports, are agreeing to operate and do business differently in order to be in this unique, energy-efficient building; and integrating with the Burke-Gilman trail is integral to that change.

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

Sincerely,

List Picard
Executive Vice President
Skanska USA Commercial Development Inc.

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