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 Multi-Modal Connector TIGER V Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and our 2,200 members, 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, and would be the last piece of funding needed to complete the project.

The Seattle Metro Chamber is a strong proponent of a robust, safe transportation network that encourages multimodal use. The Burke–Gilman Trail, the most heavily used trail in Washington state, plays an important role in connecting bicyclists and pedestrians with employers, including the University of Washington, our state’s third largest employer, as well as major medical centers and hundreds of businesses.

However, in recent years, the trail’s growing popularity has led to overcrowding and conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. Additional development, including a new light rail station and a new bridge with dedicated bicycle lanes, is projected to dramatically increase trail demand. The improvements planned by the University of Washington will provide the capacity needed to meet this increased demand, and will also address safety issues, including high-crash locations between pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

I hope you will support the Burke–Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 389-7226 or maudd@seattlechamber.com.

Sincerely,

Maud Daudon
President & CEO

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