June 1, 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 Multi-Modal Connector 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 regional treasure. It is a major recreation, transportation, and nature corridor and the most heavily-used trail in Washington state. 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, is anticipated to dramatically increase trail demand.

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.

Spokespeople takes “willing but wary” people who want to bike on monthly safe, family-friendly rides around Seattle. Having a safe, low-stress connection along Burke-Gilman Trail is one of the most important features of our rides. Funding from this grant will help to increase capacity of the trail, and it would also improve the safety of a number of trail crossings for people of all ages and abilities. We strongly support this project and trust it will get the funding it deserves.

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,

Cathy Tuttle, Spokespeople Coordinator

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