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 in support of the University of Washington’s application for a TIGER grant to support much-needed improvements to the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector. The Burke-Gilman Trail is the most heavily-used trail in Washington state, and an important route that I and several of my colleagues used for our daily work commutes. It is thus not just an important recreation resource, but a vital element of the region’s economic infrastructure.

The trail’s growing popularity has led to overcrowding and conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, which I witness daily. Additional, valuable transit-oriented development will dramatically increase trail demand. Furthermore, the trail suffers from dangerous root-induced bumps that pose safety risks, and as they get worse, a deterrent to bicycle transit.

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,

Michael Lazarus  
Director, Seattle Office  
Stockholm Environment Institute – US

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