May 30, 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.

The Burke-Gilman Trail is a regional treasure for Washington State. It is a major recreation, transportation, and nature corridor. It is the most heavily-used trail in the state of Washington. In recent years, the trail’s growing popularity has led to overcrowding and conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclist and motorist. And, the area’s current 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 expansion 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.

University Village is a nationally recognized outdoor lifestyle center surrounded by the Burke-Gilman Trail where hundreds of bicyclists commute to work in and around our center each day. The Multi-Modal Connector will support the state’s continued efforts for alternative, safe and responsible commuter options. And, will serve to further strengthen healthy, recreation for the region’s families.

I am in support of 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,

Susie Flannan
Vice President & General Manager

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