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 Multi-Modal Connector TIGER V Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing on behalf of the University District Business Improvement Area. We heartily endorse the University of Washington's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant program.

The Burke-Gilman Trail is a vital transportation link in our neighborhood for employees, customers and owners. The Trail provides a low-cost transportation alternative and encourages a healthy and environmentally friendly lifestyle. The proposed improvements in safety and air quality will benefit all who use the Trail.

With the upcoming opening of two light rail stations in the U District as well as the 520 Bridge Project, projected pedestrian trips on the Trail are expected to increase by 92%. The businesses in the U District are looking forward to the increase in customers that these large scale transportation projects will bring. The TIGER grant will allow for necessary infrastructure updates to the Burke-Gilman Trail that will further enhance access, commerce and overall livability in the U District.

On behalf of the University District Business Improvement Area, we are pleased to support the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector, and strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation’s approval of their application.

Sincerely,

Scott Soules
President UDBIA Board of Directors
Soules Properties, Inc.

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