May 28, 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:

We are 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.

The University District Livability Partnership is a broad coalition of public, private and community leaders who are working together for a vibrant and innovative district of entrepreneurs, major employers, talented workers, and diverse residents. This project is highly aligned with our goals, 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 to approve their application.

Sincerely,

Kristine Cunningham
Co-Chair

Roger Wagoner
Co-Chair