May 23, 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 La Hood:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the University of Washington's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant program. Funding from this grant will be used to fund the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

University Heights Center for the Community Association (UHCCA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a place for innovative learning and cultural development for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Last year, close to 24,000 people attended classes, events and programs at our facility. Our long term tenants include a day care center, a K-10 school whose target population is kids who are on the autism spectrum, Northwest Choir, Broadway Bound, Yugakusha (Japanese preschool) as well as offices of elected officials and others. Parking is at a premium at the center, and the more people that we can encourage to use alternative means of transportation, the better.

As an active participant in the University District Livability Project, UHCCA is highly invested in creating "a vibrant and innovative district of entrepreneurs, major employers, talented workers and diverse residents." The Burke-Gilman trail is a major route for people coming to the University District. In addition, with light rail coming to the District, and the planned bike route over 520, more and more people will be using the trail.

Personally, as a bicyclist, I can honestly say that currently the part of the Burke Gilman trail that goes through the University is one of the most dangerous and scary areas of the trail. With thousands more people projected to use the trail, it will be a disaster waiting to happen.

For the aforementioned reasons, I urge you to fund the University of Washington's Burke Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector.

Sincerely,

Barbara Green
Interim Executive Director

Cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Marie Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee