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:

University Greenways is pleased to support 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.

University Greenways is a neighborhood coalition of individuals and families, residents and advocates, all of whom are working toward livable, walkable, bikeable University District neighborhood, where children, adults, and seniors can all feel safe and enjoy the mobility that will connect them to our community.

As the majority of our core neighborhood residents do not own automobiles, we rely heavily on active transportation. We absolutely rely on the Burke-Gilman trail to remain in a state of good repair, so that our residents are not left walking or bicycling on the busy and often dangerous arterials that crisscross the neighborhood.

Unfortunately, as walking and bicycling have become even more popular in recent years, this Trail has become increasingly overcrowded to a point of even becoming regarded as unsafe due to risk of collisions between trail users. As a community organizer, I personally know people injured to the point of hospitalization in crashes on this trail – crashes which would have been prevented by this project. This project offers the opportunity to again reclaim bicycling and walking as safe, healthy and comfortable activities for our community – as well they should be.

We are pleased to support the University of Washington’s Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector and strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation’s consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

Eli Goldberg  
Director  
University Greenways

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