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 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. 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.

As an avid bicyclist myself, I know firsthand the health, environmental, and economic benefits of cycling and a solid cycling infrastructure.

I am pleased to support 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,

Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.
CEO, UW Medicine
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and
Dean of the School of Medicine,
University of Washington

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

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