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.  

As an environmental community we believe that tackling climate change is the single biggest challenge of our generation. Projects like the Burke-Gilman Trail Multi-Modal Connector are an important piece in reducing our dependence on oil, and improve air quality and our community’s health. Trail improvements in the corridor are estimated to significantly improve air quality, including reductions in hydrocarbons by an average of 56,005 lbs/year and reductions in carbon dioxide by an average of 15,195,357 lbs/year.  

Individuals are making choices that combat climate change every day. In the last 10 years, UW faculty bike trips have more than tripled, student and staff bike trips have nearly doubled, and faculty and student walking trips have grown by 25%. Over the next decade, in large part because of the opening of the UW light rail station and the improved SR-520, pedestrian trips are going to increase by 92% and bicycle trips by 238%. The Burke-Gilman Trail project is a piece of this region’s plan for multi-modal transportation and addressing climate change.  

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,  

Jesseca Brand  
King County Program Manager  
Washington Conservation Voters  

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