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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 submit this letter of endorsement 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. The Burke-Gilman Trail transverses the Ravenna-Bryant Community, and is used extensively by the residents who we represent. Whether bicycling, strolling, running or walking dogs, our neighbors benefit enormously from the public-private partnership which maintains the trail. This is a real community asset.

Over the years, however, regular use and exposure to the elements combined with increased traffic on the trail have taken their toll. Some areas are overgrown and exchanges along the trail are rather congested -- especially where the path meets automobile traffic. 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.

We are 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 and approval of their application.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Ravenna-Bryant Community Association
Seattle, Washington

CC:

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