October 31st, 2011

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Mountlake Terrace, WA “Main Street” Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing in support of the TIGER III Program grant application submitted by Mountlake Terrace, Washington to complete the reconstruction of a strategically important corridor (56th Avenue West) critical to the City’s planned redevelopment of its downtown core.

This project, called the “Main Street” Reconstruction Project, revitalizes an economically distressed downtown “Main Street” in the City, and encourage a transit-oriented community adjacent to a recently completed Transit Station along Interstate 5. The City’s goals for this project include the creation of 1,400 new jobs, 800 mixed-use multi-family housing units, and better transportation connectivity and efficiency.

TIGER III funds would be used to reconstruct this important arterial system, greatly improving connectivity, encouraging use of the regional transit center, and spurring transit-oriented development in the adjacent Town Center and Freeway Transit Zones. Additionally, the underground utility work required by the project will help establish an innovative Energy Conservation District in the region, enhancing sustainable development.

The City’s grant application is for $12,077,062. When combined with local revenues from the City of $2,415,412, the total work of $14,492,475 can be immediately bid, putting the money to work quickly. Because of the strategic location of the project, it will have a positive effect upon the region as well as locally.

Economic Alliance Snohomish County is a private/public partnership which advances commerce and community development. I urge your strong consideration of the grant application from the City of Mountlake Terrace, and thank you for your efforts in support of local government, economic development and job creation.

Sincerely,

Troy McClelland
President & CEO