October 25, 2011

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

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

Dear Mr. LaHood:

On behalf of the City of Mountlake Terrace City Council, I am writing in support of the TIGER III Program grant application submitted by the City of Mountlake Terrace, Washington to reconstruct a strategically important arterial system (56th Avenue West) critical to the City’s planned redevelopment of our downtown core.

This project, called the “Main Street” Reconstruction Project, will revitalize an economically distressed area in our community, and encourage transit-oriented development adjacent to a major transit center along Interstate 5. The City’s goals for this project include the eventual creation of 1,400 new jobs, 800 mixed-use multifamily housing units, and better transportation connectivity, safety, and efficiency.

TIGER III grant funds would be used to reconstruct this important arterial system that will greatly improve multimodal access, encourage use of the regional Transit Center, and spur transit-oriented and mixed use buildings. The City’s grant application 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.

As the elected representatives of the people of Mountlake Terrace, we urge your strong consideration of the grant application from the City, and thank you for your efforts in support of local government, economic development, and job creation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Smith
Mayor

cc: City Council
    City Manager
    Community and Economic Development Director
    Economic Development Director
    Project and CED Read Files