October 4, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Puget Sound Regional Council, I am writing to support City of Mountlake Terrace’s application for the United States Department of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery III (TIGER III) for its Main Street Reconstruction Project.

The Main Street Reconstruction Project is a multimodal project that will reconstruct a seriously degraded, 50+ year-old arterial street system. The project will improve sidewalks, add bicycle lanes, and provide a safe, walkable urban environment. Overhead utilities will be placed underground and pedestrian safety will be improved by updating ADA facilities, installing energy efficient pedestrian and street lighting, and improving traffic and pedestrian signalization within the project area. Most importantly, this project will greatly improve connectivity between the street system and a new mass transit center located a third of a mile away.

This project will create long and short-term jobs, reduce overall emissions, and improve the sustainability and livability of the area. It will also improve regional mobility by creating housing and jobs near substantial transit infrastructure. The project is ready to proceed to construction if a federal funding source can be leveraged with Mountlake Terrace’s local investment.

We encourage you to give this request your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Drewel, Executive Director
Puget Sound Regional Council