March 6, 2012

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of Cascade Bicycle Club and our more than 14,000 members, I am writing in enthusiastic support of the TIGER IV Program grant application submitted by the City of Mountlake Terrace, Washington, to reconstruct a strategically important arterial system critical to the City’s planned redevelopment of its downtown core. The improvements on 56th Avenue West would greatly increase accessibility for cyclists, by connecting existing bike lanes to create a continuous bicycle route from downtown Mountlake Terrace to the Transit Center. It would also connect the downtown corridor to the Interurban Trail, a regionally significant bicycle route through Snohomish and King Counties.

This project, called the “Main Street” Reconstruction Project, will revitalize an economically distressed area in the community and encourage transit-oriented development adjacent to a major transit center along Interstate 5. By increasing accessibility to public transportation, this project would also increase the ability of Mountlake Terrace residents to find work in the larger metro areas, contributing to regional economic recovery. It will also decrease the greenhouse gas emissions of the City by providing a safe route for cyclists and pedestrians to the Mountlake Terrace Regional Transit Center.

We’re excited for better transportation connectivity, safety, and efficiency and improvements like wider sidewalks, new bike lanes and updated ADA facilities. This project will not only improve the livability of the area, but will also have significant mobility, environmental and health benefits.

We urge your strong consideration of the grant application from the City of Mountlake Terrace, and thank you for your efforts in support of local mobility, economic development, and job creation.

Sincerely,

Chuck Ayers
Executive Director

cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Christine Gregoire
Congressman Jay Inslee
Mountlake Terrace Mayor Jerry Smith