March 1, 2012

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

Dear Mr. LaHood:

On behalf of the City of Mountlake Terrace City Council, I am writing in support of the TIGER IV 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 encourage development in an economically distressed area of the City. The City’s grant application is for $10,869,357 and when combined with local revenues from the City of $3,623,118, the total of $14,492,475 provides all the funding for the project making it immediately ready to 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. By increasing accessibility to the new Mountlake Terrace Transit Station, this project would also contribute to regional economic recovery.

TIGER IV 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. Improvements include widening sidewalks, adding bike lanes, updating ADA facilities, and installing energy efficient pedestrian and street lighting. Trenching for the power lines to be moved underground can also be used to install hydronic piping for a ground-source heating/cooling system. The City’s goals for this project include the eventual creation of 1,400 new jobs, 800 mixed-use multifamily housing units, an energy conservation district, and better transportation connectivity, safety, and efficiency.

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,

[Signature]

JERRY SMITH
Mayor

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