March 14, 2012

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:

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 its downtown core.

This project will revitalize an economically distressed downtown area and encourage mixed use housing in the Mountlake Terrace Town Center. The project includes utility improvements as well as better bike and pedestrian connections to a major transit center along Interstate 5, helping residents access other regional job centers without a car. The City’s goals for this project include the creation of 800 mixed-use multifamily housing units.

Additional housing in a convenient, transit-friendly location, such as Mountlake Terrace, is critically important to our region. I urge your strong consideration of the grant application from the City and thank you for your efforts in support of providing infrastructure that makes affordable and sustainable housing more achievable.

Sincerely,

Duane Leonard
Associate Executive Director