February 29, 2012

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

Dear Mr. LaHood:

As the Snohomish County Councilmember whose district includes Mountlake Terrace 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, 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. The City’s grant application can be immediately bid, putting the money to work quickly. Because of the strategic location of the project, between Seattle and Everett, it will have a positive effect upon the region as well as locally. 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.

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. Power lines will be placed underground, also allowing for the installation of 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.

Projects such as this one clearly represent the vision that Snohomish County has for future development. This kind of sustainable development is key to Snohomish County continuing to be successful community for our citizens to live and work in.

As a County Councilmember responsible for the long term planning for Snohomish County I 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,

Dave Gossett, Councilmember
Snohomish County Council