



Honorable Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor, City of Seattle
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98104

Honorable Bruce A. Harrell
President, Seattle City Council
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

July 25, 2018

Re: Burke-Gilman Trail Missing Link

Dear Mayor Durkan, President Harrell, and Members of the City Council:

We represent numerous small, family-owned Seattle businesses that collectively create thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the Seattle economy. Through many generations, these businesses have driven the rich economic and social fabric that defines Seattle. With livelihoods dependent on this network of inter-related maritime businesses clustered in the Ballard-Interbay industrial area, we provide the following recommendation regarding the siting of the Burke-Gilman Trail "Missing Link".

With the City's continued prosperity, we view the completion of the Missing Link as integral to the equation of creating a place both workable and livable. In turn, the issue transcends the "bikes vs. trucks" and "recreation vs. business" narrative that has seemingly characterized the issue to date. The Office of the Mayor and the City Council are forced everyday to make decisions prioritizing interests with clear "winners" and "losers." We don't believe this topic should be such a zero-sum scenario.

By siting the Missing Link along Leary Ave NW everyone comes out a winner. Foremost, the safety of cyclists will be ensured. Whether cyclists are riding for enjoyment or as part of their workday commute, this dedicated routing would adequately separate them from vehicular traffic. Impacts on freight mobility will be minimal. This includes not only the trucks and heavy equipment vital to the maritime and manufacturing sector, but also the vehicles delivering groceries and other consumer goods to the many area businesses serving shopping, dining, and recreation needs. And by siting the Missing Link along Leary Ave NW it will be better aligned with ST3 and other transit expansions, contributing to a more seamless, multi-modal transportation future for Ballard and the surrounding area. To recap, we believe the Leary Ave NW route provides the following benefits:

- Increased safety for cyclists & pedestrians
- Lower construction & acquisition costs
- Fewer driveway crossings
- Improved parking
- Fewer train, truck, forklift, manlift, and crane interactions
- Better alignment with transit options
- Lesser impact on freight mobility

We appreciate your consideration of our perspective and what we believe to be a far superior and safer route for the Missing Link. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss this option and are happy to address any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

Peter Tarabochia, President
Seattle Marine Business Coalition

Eugene Wasserman, President
North Seattle Industrial Association

Dave Gering, Executive Director
Manufacturing Industrial Council

Brent Paine, Executive Director
United Catcher Boats

Jamie Goen, Executive Director
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers

Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director
At-Sea Processors Association

James Johnson, Executive Director
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union

Chris Woodley, Executive Director
Groundfish Forum