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November 24, 2009

Hon. Nick Licata
Seattle City Council
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Re: request to dedicate red light camera and speed van camera revenues for bicycle and pedestrian programs

Dear Councilmember Licata:

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) writes to bring to your attention the need for dedicated funding sources to implement the 2007 Bicycle Master Plan. As you know, Bicycle Master Plan implementation activities are funded in large part by monies from the Bridging the Gap Levy. Currently two problems exist: (1) despite levy funding, implementation activities are significantly underfunded; and (2) funding for bicycle projects lacks a dedicated revenue stream to expand Seattle's bikeway network.

As stewards of the Bicycle Master Plan, SBAB requests that the City Council begin to establish a dedicated long-term funding mechanism for Bicycle Master Plan implementation and pedestrian programs through revenues generated by red light cameras and speed van cameras. To enable this, we would ask your office to work with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations at the statewide level to require that revenue generated by automated enforcement tools be dedicated to traffic safety purposes.

These two automated traffic law enforcement methods provide a compelling nexus between revenue generation for bicycle improvements, while at the same time improving roadway safety for all users. We are particularly impressed by studies that indicate speed van cameras provide a significant traffic calming effect on motor vehicles. Red light cameras also help the City carry out a portion of Action 3.3 of the Bicycle Master Plan, which seeks to encourage enforcement when motor vehicles disobey traffic signals.

As the Bicycle Master Plan was created by and endorsed by all elements of our City government, with a specific timeline to meet well-defined goals, it deserves a permanent and dedicated funding stream to help meet both the existing commitments and the growing needs for bicycling in Seattle. We feel that dedicating revenues generated by red light cameras and speed van cameras offers an important first step in meeting the City's obligation.

Sincerely,



Sean Cryan, chair SBAB



Blake Trask, vice chair, SBAB

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council
Resolution 25534