

October 28, 2011

The Honorable Raymond LaHood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Rochester Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As leader of Sector 5, a committee which advocates for the residents of downtown Rochester, and myself a downtown resident and office worker, I am writing to express my support for the City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project through the FY 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grants program. Removal of the eastern leg of the Inner Loop has long been a goal of downtown residents and users, but especially those in the East End, a downtown mixed-use neighborhood that is currently divided by the sunken Inner Loop roadway. The funding being requested would allow the sunken roadway to be filled, and replaced by an at-grade boulevard that will re-connect the two disparate pieces of the neighborhood. The East End is an extremely vibrant urban neighborhood that has seen a significant amount of private investment in the past several years. In addition to a growing residential population, the area is dense with offices, restaurants, and retail space. The funding being requested will allow the East End to continue to thrive by improving the aesthetics of the area, strengthening connectivity, and perhaps most importantly generating new parcels of land that will create opportunities for infill development and open space.

The City of Rochester has placed a significant focus on reinvesting in the downtown core, and as a result the quality of life for Center City residents has been substantially enhanced, and private development has followed. Replacement of the underutilized eastern segment of the Inner Loop with a properly scaled at-grade boulevard will be a tremendous compliment to the revitalization efforts already underway. Rather than spending a substantial amount of money rehabbing the Inner Loop East, which needs significant upgrades to its aging infrastructure, this money can be better spent by removing this outdated expressway in favor of creating a sustainable city street rooted in the practices of sound urban planning.

I appreciate your full consideration of this important project, and look forward with great optimism regarding this tremendous opportunity for our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Bellomo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony P. Bellomo
Sector 5 Leader