



May 31, 2013

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

RE: Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to submit this application for FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program funding to construct the visionary Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project. The requested \$17.7 million will complete the funding package for this regionally-significant \$23.6 million project that will quite literally redefine Downtown Rochester at a time when our city and region desperately need investment.

The City of Rochester and the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region are still feeling the effects of the 2001-2003 recession, during which more than 20,000 jobs were lost from our area. The Great Recession of 2007-2009 led to the loss of 15,000 additional jobs from the region. Despite notable economic successes in recent years, the number of jobs in our region remains well below Year 2000 levels. As of April 2013, unemployment in the City of Rochester remained above 9%, higher than the state and national rates.

A vibrant regional economy requires a vibrant center city. Accordingly, the City is aggressively investing in its downtown area, enhancing public infrastructure and attracting private investment. No project is more central to our revitalization strategy than this project. The requested TIGER funding will be used to remove a deteriorated and underutilized section of the Inner Loop Expressway in Downtown Rochester and replace it with a new high quality complete street. This project will reconnect neighborhoods, remove structurally-deficient bridges, encourage walking and biking, and create more than nine acres of land for redevelopment that will generate jobs and leverage private investment. This innovative project meets all of the TIGER Long-Term Outcomes and has an overwhelmingly positive Benefit-Cost ratio.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for TIGER funding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Richards
Mayor