

Wadsworth Square Neighborhood Association

A Gateway Community

October 24, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the families of the Wadsworth Square Neighborhood Association, I am please to write in support of the City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project application through the FY 2011 TIGER Grant Program.

Wadsworth Square is a compact, densely populated neighborhood with a long and proud history. In 1835, it is said the Wadsworth family donated the land that today makes up most of the square, and was once used to graze cows, housed an elementary school and later the city's health department offices.

But, with the construction of the I-490 and Inner Loop project, the neighborhood has been isolated from the downtown Rochester by the barriers that were constructed. The square was paved-over, turned into a storage facility for automobiles, and stopped being used for a public purpose. Through the efforts of many dedicated citizens the half of the square was reclaimed for public use parkland, but the other half is still used as a parking lot. As you can see, the Inner Loop continues to a negative impact on the development and growth of Wadsworth Square and adjacent neighborhoods to this day.

The Inner Loop acts as an impediment to the commercial growth of Monroe Avenue. The sunken expressway is a physical and psychological barrier between Wadsworth Square neighborhood and downtown and discourages walking and biking as well as investment. The Inner Loop has created a dead zone in what is an otherwise vibrant densely populated urban center.

By removing the expressway and its "moat like" effect it creates, will increase the number of connection points between neighborhoods and downtown and will facilitate the economic investment that will help restore life to downtown and its adjacent neighborhoods.

I appreciate you consideration of Rochester's application and encourage favorable action by the Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,



Allan Richards, President
Wadsworth Square Neighborhood Association

23 Pearl Street, Rochester, New York 14607
585/230-6234