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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I write in support of the City of Rochester's application for funding from the TIGER III Grant Program through the Department of Transportation. The funding will be used to remove a deteriorated and underutilized section of the Inner Loop Expressway and replace it with a new high quality urban boulevard.

Rochester is the third largest city in New York State and serves as a state and regional economic hub. The City is successfully revitalizing its urban core through strategic investments that are reconnecting adjacent vibrant neighborhoods with downtown areas. The Inner Loop East Reconstruction project is central to this revitalization strategy.

The requested funding will be used to remove a deteriorated and underutilized section of the Inner Loop Expressway and replace it with a new high quality urban boulevard that is easily accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians. The Inner Loop serves as a physical and psychological barrier, discouraging walking and biking and hindering economic development. This project will reconnect neighborhoods with the downtown, eliminate overbuilt and deteriorating infrastructure, and free up more than nine acres of land for redevelopment. Replacement of this expressway will significantly enhance Rochester's livability by reconnecting neighborhoods, encouraging more walking and biking, and stimulating private investment.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Andrew Usyk at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator