



Rochester Regional Office

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October 27, 2011

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

RE: City of Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As President of the Upper East End Business Association and Superintendent of Union Place, an office building directly adjacent to the proposed City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project, I want to express full support of this proposal through the FY 2011 Tiger Discretionary Grants program.

Aside from the general observation that this project will reconnect neighborhoods now divided by this underutilized "concrete moat," open up nine acres of land for redevelopment, remove 2 structurally-deficient bridges, and in many ways –psychologically and physically – unite the core City with several thriving neighborhoods (Neighborhood of the Arts, Upper East End Entertainment Area, Park Avenue, and Monroe Village), I feel I should relate several very substantive advantages this particular project would bring to the City and our neighborhood to give you a better focus.

First, the world-famous Rochester International Jazz Festival held every June along East Avenue is in fact divided by this "moat," in that it greatly limits pedestrian traffic to and from venues and precludes a more expansive area in which to plan this or other major events in the area. Secondly, the elimination of this sunken roadway will promote easier access to parking, restaurants, and entertainment businesses both day and night in our area.

In short, it is fair to say that this proposal is right for the City ("One City" is the local phrase most often used), right for adjacent businesses, residences, property owners, and places of worship, and offered at the right time to undertake construction. We strongly urge that you approve this project for Rochester and look forward to offering our group's support and input as the City moves this project forward to benefit everyone concerned.

Sincerely,

Carl O'Connell, President of Upper East End Business Association

Frances Paley, Resident

Murphy's Law

New Bethel Christian Fellowship

Isaac Heating and Air Conditioning

Heat Nightclub

Tim Tompkins, Resident

One Restaurant

Union Place, NYSUT

Doc Yaeger Tattoo

The Patriot Companies

Flower City Management

www.nysut.org

New York State United Teachers

... Affiliated with many others AFL-CIO

