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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project through the FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grants program.

The City of Rochester is revitalizing its downtown through improving infrastructure and continuing to invest in economic development and housing projects. A key component of this downtown revitalization strategy is to reconnect adjacent neighborhoods with the downtown core. No project is more central to this approach than the Inner Loop East Reconstruction project.

The ten to twelve lanes of the Inner Loop and its frontage roads separate the downtown area from thriving neighborhoods like the Neighborhood of the Arts, Upper East End, Park Avenue, and Monroe Village. As such, it is widely seen as a physical and psychological barrier, discouraging walking and biking, and hindering growth.

With funding from the TIGER program, the City will remove a deteriorated and underutilized section of the Inner Loop expressway and replace it with a high-quality street. This project will reconnect neighborhoods, remove two structurally-deficient bridges, and allow access to nine acres of land for redevelopment. Additionally, the construction and subsequent growth will result in thousands of new jobs.

I believe this proposal meets all of the TIGER objectives and incorporates multiple innovative features; for these reasons, I offer my full support. Thank you, in advance, for your careful consideration of this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Ted O'Brien
State Senator, 55th District