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October 28, 2011

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

Re: CITY OF ROCHESTER, Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my strong support for a FY 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant for the City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project. This funding would be used to remove a deteriorated and underutilized section of the Inner Loop Expressway and replace it with a new, high-quality, city street. The project would reconnect existing neighborhoods, remove two structurally-deficient bridges, and create more than nine acres of land for redevelopment opportunities.

Rochester is the third largest city in New York State and an internationally-significant economic center. The City of Rochester is successfully revitalizing its downtown area through strategic investments in infrastructure, economic development, and housing. A key piece of its downtown revitalization strategy is to reconnect adjacent vibrant neighborhoods with the downtown core. This project is central to this reconnection approach.

The numerous lanes of the Inner Loop and its frontage roads separate the downtown area from adjacent thriving neighborhoods including the Neighborhood of the Arts, Upper East End, Park Avenue, and Monroe Village. The Inner Loop serves as a physical and psychological barrier, discouraging walking and biking, and hindering economic development. Replacement of this outdated expressway with a context-sensitive complete street will reconnect neighborhoods, promote walking and biking, and encourage private investment. The proposed project meets all of the TIGER Long-Term Outcomes and incorporates multiple innovative features.

I appreciate your full consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

David J. Beinetti, AIA
President

DJB/pav