



conifer

a real estate development and management company

October 28, 2011

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

RE: Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project
City of Rochester, New York

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the City of Rochester's application to the U. S. Department of Transportation for financial assistance through the FY 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program for the Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project.

Conifer Realty is a full service real estate company specializing in the development and management of high-quality, affordable housing communities. Since its inception, the company has developed over 200 properties and over 15,000 apartment units. Conifer concentrates its business in New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The company currently owns and manages over 11,000 apartment units throughout these regions.

Currently, the segment of the Inner Loop between Monroe Avenue and Charlotte Street creates a barrier between downtown and some of Rochester's most successful mixed-use districts, including the Park Avenue Neighborhood. It is our understanding that the proposed project will have a number of significant benefits including: pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular re-connectivity to downtown; landscaping and beautification; narrowing of an underutilized highway; and most importantly, creation of development and investment opportunities for the private sector.

As a major investor in downtown real estate, both commercially and residentially, our company would be very interested in considering investing in and developing projects on newly-created development parcels resulting from the Inner Loop East project as proposed. Conifer Realty recently completed the \$18MM renovation of The Hamilton, a 202-unit structure located adjacent to Rochester's downtown. Conifer is currently under construction on the \$32MM Erie Harbor, a transformative project involving the development of 131 mixed-income housing units right next door to The Hamilton.

In summary, we enthusiastically support and urge funding for the City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project.

Sincerely,

Allen Handelman
Vice-President

building opportunities, achieving dreams®

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