

October 25, 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,

The Rochester Cycling Alliance, a bicycling advocacy group in Rochester, NY, supports the City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project for funding through the FY 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grants Program. This funding will be used to remove a deteriorated and underutilized section of the Inner Loop Expressway and replace it with a new high quality city street. This project will reconnect several neighborhoods that have been disconnected for over three decades, remove two structurally-deficient bridges, and create more than nine acres of land for redevelopment.

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. No project is more central to this approach than the Inner Loop East Reconstruction project.

The multi lanes of the Inner Loop and its frontage roads separate the downtown area from three adjacent thriving neighborhoods. The Inner Loop serves as a physical and psychological barrier, discourages walking, discourages bicycling and hinders economic development. Replacement of this outdated expressway with a context-sensitive complete street will reconnect the three neighborhoods, promote walking, promote bicycling, and encourage private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. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (585) 461-5363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Richard DeSarra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Richard DeSarra

President of the Rochester Cycling Alliance

www.rochestercyclingalliance.com