



October 28, 2011

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

Dear Mr. LaHood:

I am pleased to lend my support to New York State Department of Transportation's submission of the Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center (RITC) for TIGER III discretionary grant funding. This regionally significant project with broad-based community support will improve the experience of travelers by providing them with a safe, accessible and up-to-date facility.

Currently, the station is being operated out of an aging, temporary facility built in 1978. Not only are there few services available for passenger comfort, but connectivity with other transportation modes is very limited.

This new station, once complete, will be truly intermodal; providing access to inter- and intra- city buses, car rentals and adequate parking. Pedestrian and bike connectivity have also been carefully considered and incorporated into the design. Passengers will travel with the peace of mind that comes from knowing they can safely and easily reach their final destination.

Customer accessibility and comfort are at the forefront of the station's design. Enhanced passenger access through a high-level platform and an overhead bridge and improved operational reliability through the addition of trackage and signalling will combine to reduce train dwell time at the station. The customer experience will be improved by the inclusion of restaurants in the facility.

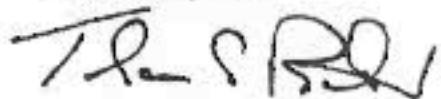
The station will serve as an important gateway to downtown Rochester, Monroe County and the Finger Lakes. The area immediately surrounding the station has suffered from disinvestment for many years. Neighbors, business owners and community groups welcome the RITC as an economic development driver for the north eastern quadrant of Rochester. Hotels, restaurants and shops throughout the area will benefit from this new gateway to the region.

This project has the support of Amtrak and the Genesee Transportation Council, the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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I am pleased to support the New York State Department of Transportation's TIGER III application for funding the Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center. I ask that this application be given your utmost consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. S. Richards', written in a cursive style.

Thomas S. Richards  
Mayor