



Reconnect Rochester
4164 Saint Paul Blvd
Rochester, NY 14617

September 13, 2011

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

**Re: Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project, Rochester, NY
Request for TIGER Grant Assistance**

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As you review projects for TIGER III funding, please consider the Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project in Rochester, NY. This project exemplifies the purpose of the TIGER program and will be a showcase project for the program in the future, if provided the necessary funding. It will effectively leverage the grant money to create significant transportation, economic and environmental impacts in Rochester. The proposed design will provide a more balanced range of transportation options, fostering new levels of multi-modal connectivity and street-level activity. Where excess highway capacity currently sits, new development will arise in its place and bring together two previously separate neighborhoods into a single thriving corridor district.

The Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project will have a transformative effect on the landscape of the City of Rochester and its image nationwide. The improvements will be a major catalyst for the rejuvenation of downtown Rochester, a process that has been well underway for the past decade. For too long, the Inner Loop has served as a rift between downtown Rochester and its southeastern neighborhoods. Raising the depressed freeway to an at-grade boulevard will help reverse past mistakes and become a leading example for cities looking to reclaim their cityscapes from the highways that were placed through them.

Reconnect Rochester, a local transit advocacy organization and member of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, unanimously stands behind the City of Rochester's proposal and asks for your support for the Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project. This is a critical project for the community and will help the continued rejuvenation of Rochester.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Governale, and...

Roger Brown, AIA, CNU
Ed Donnelly
John Kennedy
Carlos Mercado
Robert J. Williams

Joshua Carlsen
DeWain Feller
Alex Kone
Paul Mills

Barbara Clarke
Douglas Fisher
Janet Laird
Jason Partyka

Howard Decker, FAIA
Michael Gilbert
John Lam
Volkan Turgut

CC: Thomas Richards, Mayor, City of Rochester
Charles E. Schumer, Senator, NY
Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator, NY
Louise Slaughter, Congresswoman, 28th District