



THE HUNGERFORD COMPLEX
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ROCHESTER NY 14609

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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,

The Rochester Regional Community Design Center (RRCDC) is writing to express support for the City of Rochester's Inner Loop East Reconstruction Project through the FY 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grants program. The funding from this grant 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 which will reconnect the downtown to its surrounding neighborhoods on the southeast side. This project will also 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 ten to twelve 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. Removal of the Inner Loop has been at the top of a list of 10 key recommendations recorded by citizens and stakeholders at Downtown Charrettes facilitated by the RRCDC in 2000 and 2007. Replacement of this outdated expressway with a context-sensitive complete street will reconnect neighborhoods, promote walking and biking, and encourage private investment.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. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 585-271-0520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joni Monroe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joni Monroe, AIA, CNU
Executive Director