

September 8, 2009

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

RE: Downtown Crossing, New Haven, CT

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Town Green District, I am writing in strong support of Downtown Crossing and the City of New Haven's TIGER grant application. Downtown Crossing includes the proposed conversion of the Route 34 East highway to an urban boulevard and the associated economic development of "Parcel D".

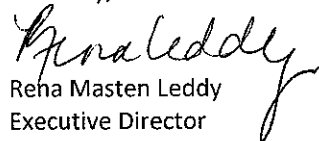
The Town Green District is a business improvement district (BID) in the heart of downtown New Haven. The District has worked for the last 11 years to revitalize downtown New Haven. We support the City's efforts in converting the Route 34 East highway to an urban boulevard because it will re-connect downtown with the health sciences community. Currently, the 34 highway is both a physical and mental barrier that prevents employees and visitors of the medical and biotech centers from doing business in downtown New Haven. We believe the proposed improvements are highly consistent with our mission to revitalize downtown New Haven and create the foundation for further investment to downtown.

Furthermore, this proposal is consistent with the objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City and private development team are ready to go with a 400,000 s.f. commercial lab building in the heart of the New Haven health sciences community. This new development complements over \$2 billion in recent and planned investment as New Haven emerges from the recession as an international center of influence in biotechnology and health sciences.

Additionally, construction activities will create 2,000 jobs immediately and contribute \$184 million in direct and indirect spending over the next three years. Over the long-term, the new building will create nearly 1,000 jobs supporting cutting-edge medical research. These employees will generate \$114 million in annual economic activity from wage earnings of nearly \$80 million which will ultimately continue our downtown revitalization efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this essential project.

Sincerely,



Reha Masten Leddy
Executive Director