

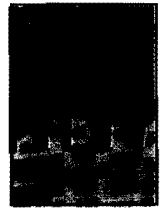
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

165 CHURCH STREET • NEW HAVEN • CONNECTICUT 06510



JOHN DESTEFANO, JR.

Mayor



*The vision of New Haven's children
is our city's greatest resource**

September 15, 2009

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

RE: New Haven Port Authority – TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in strong support of the New Haven Port Authority's TIGER grant application which if approved will provide needed resources to accomplish several of the objectives outlined in their Land Use Plan. The City of New Haven has long recognized the value of the natural deep water harbor we possess; and understands the contribution it has made to the economies of New Haven and to the State of Connecticut going back to Colonial times.

The TIGER program will truly enable the Port Authority to undertake key infrastructure improvements including the reconstruction of the main artery into the port, Waterfront Street, and will further enable them to connect rail sidings to two terminals on Waterfront Street. In addition their proposal identifies the only opportunity within the port district to expand maritime uses with bulkhead and dredging work being proposed for the North Yard. These projects along with the construction of a warehouse to store soluble cargo which now must go elsewhere and the equipment purchases that will facilitate the movement of refrigerated, containerized cargo should serve to mitigate the traffic congestion on I-95.

I believe the projects delineated in the Port Authorities application will serve to grow the Port of New Haven which is already a port of national significance; with the U.S. Coast Guard located here and with several of the liquid cargo facilities contributing to the nation's petroleum reserve. I thank you for your consideration of this application.

Very truly yours,


John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor



phone 203.946.8200 fax 203.946.7683

**This creative impression is the work of Rayshon Gray, a student at Katherine Brennan School.*