

14 September 2009

Telephone: 203 432 8613
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The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Downtown Crossing, New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write 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".

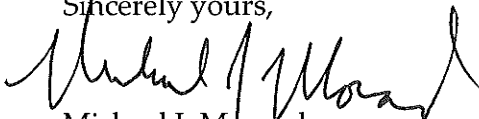
We in Yale University have been longstanding partners with the City of New Haven, the State of Connecticut, and the local business community in the renaissance of New Haven, building on the strong base of scientific research at the University. We have invested substantial time and resources and strongly believe that the proposed project will extend New Haven's economic resurgence in important ways.

The proposed improvements are consistent with the objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City and private development team are prepared to develop a 400,000 square foot 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.

From our own experience over the years, we know that there is a market for this commercial lab space, as we have helped create more than 30 new companies from scientific research on campus. Such firms have led to strong occupancy rates currently and our continued efforts will continue to create demand for high-quality space such as that conceived in this proposal.

We join our partners in the City of New Haven in urging you and your department to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely yours,



Michael J. Morand
Associate Vice President
Yale University