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The Center of Connecticut's BioScience Cluster

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September 11, 2009

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

Re: Downtown Crossing, New Haven, CT

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express CURE's strong support for Downtown Crossing and the City of New Haven's TIGER grant application. Downtown Crossing includes the proposed conversion of the Route 34 East highway into an urban boulevard and the associated economic development of "Parcel D".

CURE represents Connecticut's life sciences community, including its growing cluster of New Haven biotech companies and research institutions. CURE members cite Downtown Crossing as critical to the continued growth of our existing base of biotechs as well as to attract new companies and research to New Haven. Downtown Crossing's value to Connecticut biotech is difficult to overestimate – it would knit the existing cityscape together and be a foundation for the next generation of bioscience development.

Route 34 East is a grade-separated highway that physically separates the biotech business community from bioscience laboratories and clinical trials at Yale University. There is no land in the immediate area to develop much-needed lab space. TIGER program support is therefore essential if land is to be reclaimed and for New Haven to rebuild its economic base and compete effectively with bioscience locations around the world.

We believe the proposed improvements are highly consistent with our mission and the objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City and the private development team are eager to commence construction of a 400,000 square foot commercial laboratory building in the heart of the New Haven health sciences community. This new development complements over \$2 billion in recent and planned investment, which together will speed New Haven's emergence from the

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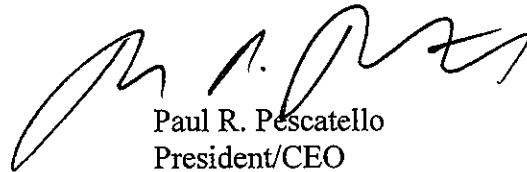
recession and reinforce its status as an international center of influence in biotechnology and health sciences.

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. The laboratory's employees will generate \$114 million in annual economic activity from wage earnings of nearly \$80 million. These jobs and economic activity are especially important for New Haven as it is the second most distressed community in Connecticut, has a poverty rate close to 25% and an unemployment rate over 11% (well above already too high state and national averages).

The Downtown Crossing project is timely, highly consistent with the objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and positions New Haven to compete effectively for jobs and business creation in the global marketplace. It will create construction jobs, improve our infrastructure and fuel long-term sustainable economic development for New Haven.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance with this important effort.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Pescatello
President/CEO