



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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September 11, 2009

Secretary Ray LaHood
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 in strong support of Downtown Crossing and the City of New Haven's TIGER grant application. Downtown Crossing includes the proposed conversion of Route 34 East highway to an urban boulevard and the associated economic development of "Parcel D".

As you may know New Haven is the second most distressed community in Connecticut and has a poverty rate close to 25%. The city's unemployment rate is over 11% and well above state and national averages. This TIGER application is one of several related strategies intended to create much-needed jobs in New Haven by focusing on emerging health sciences industries and transit oriented development.

The growth of the medical district truly is vital to the region's economic recovery, but there is no land in the immediate area to develop much-needed lab space. We are in competition with bioscience locations around the world and, with more available space, we are poised to compete effectively for new jobs in this emerging industry.

TIGER will enable us to reclaim land from the highway system and rebuild our economic base. 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.

The Downtown Crossing project is timely and highly consistent with the objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We are creating construction jobs, improving our infrastructure and positioning New Haven for long-term sustainable economic development. Thank you for your consideration and assistance with this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toni Walker', written over a horizontal line.

State Representative Toni Walker