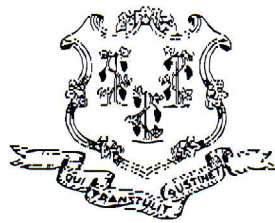


SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY
MAJORITY LEADER

Eleventh District
New Haven & Hamden



State of Connecticut
SENATE

State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
132 Fort Hale Road
New Haven, Connecticut 06512
Home: 203-468-8829
Capitol: 860-240-8600
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov

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:

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 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. The Yale University Medical School and Yale New Haven Hospital are emerging as international centers of influence in medical sciences. Over 40 new companies have started here in the City through technology transfer programs. These companies are engaged in cutting-edge medical research and are leading New Haven's economic recovery.

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 that reads "Martin M. Looney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Martin M. Looney
State Senator, District 11 and Senate Majority Leader