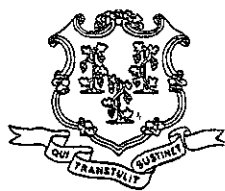


Copies: Piscitelli,
Murphy
Smuts



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Office of the
Commissioner

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August 12, 2009

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The Honorable John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Dear Mayor DeStefano:

This is in response to your letter dated June 25, 2009 regarding the City of New Haven's (City) interest in the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant program.

The Department of Transportation (Department) acknowledges the City's desire to develop the Route 34 Corridor, which would in turn provide opportunities for redevelopment and employment, and will support your efforts to progress project planning and to seek alternative funding sources, such as TIGER funds.

The Waterfront Street Rail project is essentially complete, but the Department is unable to progress the project further at this time, due to our financial needs far exceeding funding availabilities. Completion of this intermodal initiative, which includes roadway and freight improvements, is an important and vital project to the City and the State of Connecticut. The construction cost estimate for the federally eligible portion of improvements for this project is \$5 million. While the Department supports this initiative, it may not be a prime candidate for TIGER funding based on the \$20 million minimum grant size requirement in the TIGER grant application materials. However, as noted in *Part V. Waiver of Minimum Grant Size Requirement of Docket No. OST-2009-0115 (Federal Register Vol. 74, No. 94)*, the Federal Department of Transportation has discretion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to waive the \$20 million minimum grant size requirement for smaller projects.

Per your discussion with Mr. Thomas A. Harley, Bureau Chief of Engineering and Construction, at a meeting on July 23, 2009, the Department fully supports your efforts to progress project funding and seek alternative sources of funding, such as TIGER grants.

If you have any questions regarding applications for TIGER program funding, please contact Mr. Philip T. Scarozzo, Manager of the Office of Financial Management and Support, at (860) 594-2007.

Sincerely

for
Joseph F. Marie
Commissioner