

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

November 29, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

It is our pleasure to write in support of the application submitted by the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER III grant program. Norwalk's West Avenue Multimodal project will fund critical infrastructure and mass transit improvements that will better connect Norwalk's downtown corridor to its two transit hubs.

The City of Norwalk currently stands poised to introduce over 5 million square feet of new urban development within the city's two-mile downtown corridor. However, without proper infrastructure and transportation improvements, future economic growth will be hindered by traffic congestion and parking facilities. With this in mind, the City of Norwalk hopes to offer its workers, residents, and visitors an alternate medium of transportation to their personal vehicles.

The West Avenue Multimodal project will start by retrofitting two existing parking garages located near Norwalk's primary transit hubs. Each of these parking facilities will house bicycle, car-sharing, and pedestrian wayfinding components, and will thus enable every possible mode of transportation to, from, and within Norwalk. Next, the project will install an urban circulator to connect the two hubs, a sorely-missing link between Norwalk's two largest pieces of transit infrastructure: the Wall Street bus hub and the South Norwalk Rail Station. The West Avenue circulator will make stops at major developments along Norwalk's two-mile downtown corridor and thus eliminate the long-standing deficiency of local transit alternatives.

TIGER III funding will not only provide Norwalk with improved public transit options, but will also ensure that the city has the mass transit capabilities to attract and accommodate future businesses and economic growth. Before the current economic downturn, Norwalk had five major development projects lined up that would have doubled the city's downtown area. Though temporarily put on hold, each of these projects, with minor modifications, is now poised to move forward. The West Avenue Multimodal project will address the challenge of connecting each of these developments to one other, as well as to the city at large. Without infrastructure enhancements, Norwalk will fail to fully capitalize on the 5 million square feet of new urban development.

In order to cultivate economic growth, it is imperative that Norwalk provides local residents and businesses with access to appealing and efficient public transportation options. We support the proposal set forth by the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency and respectfully request that their application for funding receive full and fair consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress