

Community Action Program Belknap—Merrimack Counties, Inc.



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February 21, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

FEB 2 2 2012

ENGINEERING SERVICES DIV. CONCORD, N.H.

Dear Mr. LaHood:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the application that is being filed by the City of Concord to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Tiger 2012 Grant for the Concord Downtown Streetscape Project.

Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc. has been a partner with the City of Concord, New Hampshire operating and managing the public transit system since 1989. Our partnership of collaboration with the City of Concord and its affiliates has centered around downtown development and improvement projects such as "rethinking Main Street" and supporting Concord's Smart Growth. The financial assistance through a Tiger 2012 Grant would greatly enhance the improvements within the community such as traffic signals, sidewalks, ADA accessibility, traffic congestion reduction, and improve the accessibility to public transportation. Overall this project would give the community the opportunity for better choices of different modes of transportation, such as bicycle and pedestrian paths.

In closing, the effectiveness of this grant will improve Concord's ability to serve the growing population and enhance the quality of life. For this reason we feel a thoughtful evaluation of this grant will be an excellent opportunity to provide financial assistance through the Tiger 2012 Grant Program for all collaborating parties.

Sincerely.

Ralph Littlefield Executive Director

Community Action Program
Belknap Merrimack Counties, Inc.

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CAT-US Department of Transportation Letter of Support 2-21-12

BRADFORD

 FRANKLIN

 Center
 934-344

 1ead Start
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 Family Planning
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 STD/HIV Clinics
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 Riveraide Housing
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Concord, NH 03301 P: 603.225.3060 F: 603.225.3059 www.clf.org

conservation law foundation

February 14, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER Grant Funding for City of Concord, NH's Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to convey the strong support of the Conservation Law Foundation's New Hampshire Advocacy Center for the City of Concord, New Hampshire's TIGER grant application for its ambitious and exciting Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project. CLF is a non-profit, member-supported environmental advocacy organization with offices in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and Rhode Island. Our New Hampshire office is located in downtown Concord.

CLF is a strong advocate of integrating transportation investments and land use planning in a way that builds healthy, walkable, energy-efficient, economically robust communities. We believe the City of Concord's proposal is an excellent example of a transportation investment that will promote multiple modes of transportation. It will encourage pedestrian and bicycle access; support and leverage the City's ongoing investment in local bus transit; and provide for the safer and more efficient movement of vehicles.

We also view the City's proposal as one that will greatly benefit the local economy. CLF was the initial drafter of RSA Chapter 79-E, a state law that enables municipalities to provide tax incentives for the rehabilitation and re-use of underutilized downtown buildings. We are pleased that the City of Concord has adopted RSA Chapter 79-E as a tool for promoting downtown development. The Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project, coupled with the City's demonstrated commitment to the economic health of its downtown, will play a powerful role in unleashing downtown Concord's full economic potential. It is exactly the type of project that will lead to the development of more residential uses in downtown, which in turn will have a positive economic spin-off effect for downtown businesses and the creation of a more vital, robust community and local economy.

Finally, we view the proposal's use of waste heat from Concord Steam, for winter maintenance purposes, as a very creative project element that will have important benefits for the health of our water resources, including the Merrimack River. Water pollution caused by chlorides – resulting from the use of road salts – is a growing concern in New Hampshire. Indeed, the state has identified a number of watersheds that are impaired (i.e., violating state water quality standards) as a result of chlorides pollution caused by road-salting activities. By reducing the use of road salts, this innovative element of the Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project will help reduce water pollution.

We commend the City of Concord and its partners for developing this Downtown Complete Streets Improvement



Project and hope the U.S. Department of Transportation will render a favorable funding decision to enable this exciting project to proceed.

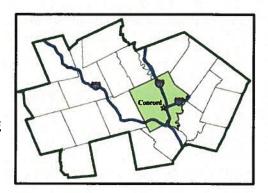
Very truly yours,

Thomas F. Irwin

Vice President & CLF-New Hampshire Director

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee



March 2, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER IV Grant Funding for City of Concord, NH's Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is an advisory committee to the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission consisting of one (1) voting member from each town in the Central New Hampshire Region, along with two (2) voting members from the City of Concord. In addition, a number of local, state and federal agencies are represented on the TAC as non-voting members.

At its March 2, 2012 meeting TAC Members received a presentation on the proposed Complete Streets Improvement Project/TIGER IV Grant Application from City of Concord staff. The Regional TAC unanimously supports this TIGER IV grant application as a standout example of a transportation investment that will generate economic recovery in Central New Hampshire.

The TAC has a very active role in both the short and long term transportation planning efforts in the Central New Hampshire Region. As such, we feel that this proposed project is in perfect line with both the transportation and economic planning policies that aim to promote cohesive and sustainable development in Central New Hampshire.

Given its geographic, civic, and economic importance, the City of Concord has naturally been identified as the core engine which will drive development in the region. Numerous policies which support this view are contained in planning documents drafted by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission such as its Long Range Transportation Plan (2007), its Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan (2010) and its most recently adopted Regional Transportation Improvement Program (2011). In each of

these transportation planning policy plans, the City of Concord, and particularly its downtown core is identified as a major development hub of local, regional and statewide significance.

Each of these plans has been developed with the input and support of the region's member communities through the TAC. Transportation improvements in downtown Concord will benefit the region. It is extremely encouraging to see the City of Concord take a proactive approach to the realization of specific transportation planning policies which were developed through the TAC.

Please accept this letter as an expression of the high level of regional support for the City of Concord's proposed Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project. The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee members and each of our member communities, looks forward to a favorable decision on this grant application. We commend our regional partners in the City of Concord for taking this approach and look forward to seeing the transportation investments from the City result in real improvements to the economic revitalization of downtown Concord and the Central New Hampshire region.

Sincerely,

Stephen Henninger, AICP

CNHRPC TAC Chair

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, March 2, 2012

Municipal Attendees



Ted Houston
Town of Boscawen



Bill Oldenburg Town of Bow



Harold Wright Town of Bradford



Douglas McCallum-Town of Canterbury



Richard Moore
Town of Chichester



Steve Henninger Ed Roberge City of Concord



Betsy Bosiak Town of Epsom



Scott Osgood Town of Henniker



Shane O' Keefe Town of Hillsborough



Ted Mitchell
Town of Pittsfield



Emilio Cancio-Bello Town of Sutton



Barbara Annis Town of Warner



March 7, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We are writing to share our strong support of the Concord Downtown Complete Streets Project proposal submitted by the City of Concord, NH to be considered for TIGER 2012 funding.

Intown Concord (formerly Main Street Concord) is committed to serving as a conduit of project information to our constituents throughout the community, utilizing our strong communication infrastructure and established social media presence.

There are a multitude of reasons why our organization supports the Concord Downtown Complete Streets Project:

- \$21MM in potential cost benefits, including a substantial amount in property value.
- More than \$10MM (of the \$21MM) in safety improvements and reduction of long term maintenance costs.
- 270+ new jobs brought to the area, generating more than \$20MM in new income
 to workers (93 related to actual construction, 42 related to construction
 suppliers, and 136 induced jobs created through the Concord Downtown
 Complete Streets Project).

Beyond the many economic benefits to our community, the proposed improvements will enhance access to and from the downtown, improve safety, encourage the use of public transit, reduce congestion, and promote pedestrian and bicycle use to reduce vehicle travel. In addition, this project will create a downtown that is accessible and welcoming to visitors and residents with all levels of physical ability.

Thank you for your consideration of the Concord Downtown Complete Streets Project; we are proud to lend our support to the initiative, and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

Andrew Hatch Board President Kim Murdoch
Interim Executive Director

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Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

28 Commercial Street & Concord NH 03301
Telephone: (603) 226-6020 & Fax: (603) 226-6023 & www.cnhrpc.org

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590



Re: TIGER IV Grant Funding for City of Concord, NH's Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) strongly supports the City of Concord's TIGER IV grant application for its Complete Streets Improvement Project. CNHRPC firmly believes in the need to integrate transportation investments and land use planning in a way that builds healthy, walkable and economically robust communities. As the designated Regional Planning Commission for Central New Hampshire, we work with each of our member communities to promote and advance this vision. The City of Concord has been an integral partner to the Planning Commission's activities in striving for these goals.

CNHRPC believes the City of Concord's Complete Streets Improvement Project is an excellent example of a transportation investment that will promote multiple modes of transportation. The proposed project meets, and exceeds, a number of goals and objectives identified in the core planning documents developed at the local, regional and statewide level in New Hampshire. It will encourage pedestrian and bicycle access; support and leverage the City's ongoing investment in local bus transit; and provide for safer and more efficient movement of vehicles.

The proposed project is also timely as the City of Concord is undertaking a citywide Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project with assistance from CNHRPC. The aim of the citywide SRTS project is to improve health and encourage more school children to walk/bike to and from school. By having a walkable and bikeable downtown core, the opportunities for children, and the community as a whole, to improve their health and consider a number of viable transportation choices is greatly enhanced.

Finally, the City's proposal will also offer significant benefit to the economy, locally as well as at the regional and statewide level. The City of Concord has adopted a number of tools to promote the development of its downtown, such as the provision of tax incentives for the rehabilitation and re-use of underutilized downtown buildings. The Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project, coupled with the City's demonstrated commitment to the economic health of its downtown, will play a powerful role in realizing downtown Concord's full potential as the region's economic center.

CNHRPC looks forward to continuing to work with the City of Concord in promoting the development of our state and regional capital. With a favorable decision on this grant application, the

City of Concord will be able to tackle a number of key issues that are at the core of the planning vision for the Central New Hampshire Region.

Sincerely,

Michael Tardiff, Executive Director



Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition www.cnhbc.org www.facebook.com/CNHBC info@cnhbc.org (603) 226-6020

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER IV Grant Funding for City of Concord, NH's Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition (CNHBC) strongly supports the City of Concord's TIGER IV grant application for its Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project. The mission of the CNHBC is to effectively improve bicycling conditions, safety, parking and the road network as well as to provide education and promotion of bicycling in Concord and surrounding communities.

A critical focus of the CNHBC is to work with local and regional planners and municipal officials to construct bicycle facilities and improve roads and conditions to be more bicycle friendly so that new and expert bicyclists feel safer and more confident in bicycling on our roads and trails. We see the City of Concord's Complete Streets Improvement Project as a key step in enhancing the bicycle network in Central NH.

We commend the City of Concord and its partners for developing this Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project and look forward to a favorable decision from the U.S. Department of Transportation that will enable this extremely important project to proceed.

Sincerely.

Nicholas Coates, Chairman, CNHBC Board of Directors

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FEB 27 2012

ENGINEERING SERVICES DIV. CONCORD. N.H.

United States Senate WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write to express our support for the TIGER IV competitive grant application submitted by the City of Concord, New Hampshire. Concord seeks \$4.71 million in federal funding to design and implement its Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project.

Downtown Concord, the economic hub of central New Hampshire, is the site of our state's capitol building. Despite being its primary job base and a critical public gathering point, the city's Main Street offers surface transportation infrastructure that is severely outdated, causing unnecessary traffic congestion and posing safety risks to pedestrians and motorists.

Concord's Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project will upgrade traffic signals, sidewalks and traffic flow along a 12-block section of Main Street. The project will also convert the existing four-lane roadway into three lanes for vehicle traffic and a new bicycle lane, improving lines of sight and pedestrian safety. Working with the Concord Steam Corporation, the city will use grant funding to install a snow melt system along the road and sidewalks, significantly reducing snow removal and maintenance costs. Based on the results of similar complete streets projects in other New Hampshire cities, Concord estimates that these enhancements will reduce downtown vacancy rates, increase property values by six percent and create 82 direct jobs.

We support this project, a top priority of the Concord City Council and the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, and strongly urge you to consider this competitive grant application. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen United States Senator

Charles Bass

United States Representative

Kelly Ayotte

United States Senator

Frank Guinta

United States Representative



March 15, 2012

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood US Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER III Concord New Hampshire Main Street Application

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I write this letter in strong support of the Concord New Hampshire's TIGER III Grant Application. As the owner of three of the city's eight hotels and of the area's major conference center, I know what an immense impact this "redo" would have on Concord and the entire Merrimack Valley tourism, and on the property values in our community.

First, I would like to address the impact the redo, along with the Concord Coach project will have on tourism. The Abbott-Downing Coaches called Concord Coaches, were built on the Main Street of Concord. Those Coaches settled the western United States. Made famous by Wells Fargo (which now prominently displays coaches in major urban headquarters) these coaches were used both before and after the advent of transcontinental railroad for mail and passenger travel. All of them were made in Concord, New Hampshire. Despite that fact, the average visitor to Concord cannot see a coach without some effort. We have located the largest intact collection of the coaches and the owner is willing to donate some and sell the rest on a bargain price on the condition they be permanently displayed and accessible to all. Our goal, should we be successful in obtaining the TIGER grant, is to build between six and fourteen display structures along the length of the redeveloped Main Street together with historical displays to showcase these critical part of America's transportation history.

This would create a substantial tourist attraction for both lovers of history, and interestingly, lovers of the old West. Unlike many museums, this display would

encourage visitors to walk our entire main street as they experience this important part of our nation's transportation history. This in turn will encourage shopping with our retailers, which will substantially improve property valuations.

Concord's Main Street serves not only our 40,000 citizen community but also as the Main Street and hub for the entire region-well over 100,000 people. Far beyond that, it is one of the most politically famous streets in America. Every single candidate for President has done multiple campaign events and walks on our Main Street. We are in effect, New Hampshire's and America's Main Street. This project, combined with the City's recent efforts at redevelopment, together with our upgraded access to bike and bus transportation, can serve as a real showcase of how relatively rural areas can embrace the goal of creating sustainable downtowns and communities.

This project has the potential to increase the number of tourist related stays in our market by an estimated 30% annually. This would provide a huge boost to the struggling hospitality industry. Concord, New Hampshire is a United States State Department refugee resettlement area. We have welcomed hundreds of refugees from Nepal and Bhutan and we work hard to help them find employment. Our company established and funded a refugee job training program as many of our refugees gravitate towards the hospitality industry. Revitalizing Main Street, as a whole, would strengthen job opportunities for these new Americans. Thus, receipt of this TIGER grant would have a positive economic impact on some of our lower earning citizens and would show a great multiplier impact of various departments of our government working in a coordinated fashion.

I would also like to address the impact this project will have on downtown property values. I am the developer and owner of the new Leed certified 90,000 square foot "Smile" building on South Main Street. We are also set to begin construction of a second building, also to be Leed certified of 70,000 square feet. These two projects will bring a total of 500 workers into our downtown, and will allow some long time existing businesses to expand.

As part of our project we worked with Concord Steam to recapture "waste steam" that is normally just bled off, into a sidewalk heating/snow melting system. Already it has proven to be one of the smartest things we have done with this project. Replicated throughout downtown it will save the city of Concord hundreds of thousands of dollars in plowing, property damage, and in liability claims. The steam company has to put steam through lines at high pressure to reach all of its distribution points. It then has to "bleed off" some of this to reduce pressures to suitable levels at various locations. We capture

that excess steam and pump it through lines under the sidewalks, and as a result no matter the weather, our sidewalks are bare and dry. The fact that this steam is generated by sustainable logging, and the production of wood chips only enhances the energy savings. Yankee ingenuity at it's' best.

This system has allowed us to command higher results for office space than is normally available in the market. If Concord were able to replicate this along the length of Main Street, it would be a showcase for the entire Northeast.

Either as an attorney or as a developer, I have been involved in most of the redevelopment projects in Concord over the past thirty years. Unlike some other projects this would be a project that would enhance and strengthen the entire downtown, from the smallest to largest retailers and property owners. It would integrate our historical role in the development of national transportation with our economic well being and would dramatically increase Concord and the region's hub as a 21st century community.

We would love to show you, and President Obama this invaluable project.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Duprey

P.S. Your former Assistant Secretary Jill Zuckman for Commuters is a dear friend. She did great work for you and the Department