



August 16, 2010

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Secretary Ray LaHood  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Richmond's application requesting funding through the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program for the Main Street Station Multimodal Transportation Center project.

Transforming the historic Main Street Station into a fully functioning multimodal transportation center has been identified as a primary goal for the City, the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Amtrak, as well as business leaders, community organizations, and residents. The City of Richmond in general, and Main Street Station in particular, is uniquely positioned at the crossroads of existing national rail/interstate infrastructures and regional transportation routes. As it has become evident that heavy reliance on single-occupancy vehicles is unsustainable both economically and environmentally to meet the nation's transportation strategies, multimodal transportation centers play an important role in providing access to other modes of transportation, while also promoting livable development that will support long-term adoption of mass transit, biking, walking and other forms of sustainable transportation.

The Main Street Station Multimodal Transportation Center TIGER II project includes innovative electric vehicle charging and rental services at the station; walking/biking connections to the Virginia Capital Trail, as well as Richmond's Canal Walk and Slave Trail; improved access to bus transit services with a series of smart kiosks to inform users about the different modes of transportation and how to access them and enhanced passenger rail platforms to accommodate growing regional and corridor travelers.

Once complete, the project would result in immediate and ongoing multimodal transportation benefits, but also provide a key hub for the planned high speed rail service and spur transit oriented development in the City's historic Shockoe Bottom and surrounding neighborhoods.

As President Obama said when announcing the high speed rail grants in April of 2009, *"Imagine whisking through towns at speeds over 100 miles an hour, walking only a few steps to public*

*transportation, and ending up just blocks from your destination.”* This project will help make walking just a few feet to public transportation a reality, as our regions works to expand high speed rail across the Southeast.

With the average resident along the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor spending 213 hours a year commuting to work or sitting in traffic, and the average plane delayed over 56 minutes, more trains linking to more public transit will help alleviate congestion on our roads, reduce greenhouse gases, and create jobs.

Again, I urge you to provide financial support to the Main Street Station Multimodal Transportation Center project through the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Daniel L. Plaugher  
Executive Director, Virginians for High Speed Rail  
Executive Director, the Southeast High Speed Rail Association