

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 1, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the City of Akron, Ohio, for funding in the FY17 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program to be used for the construction of Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade along the South Main Street Corridor.

The South Main Street provides a critical link between the Downtown Akron Innovation District, an area designated to promote business incubation and development, and the Akron BioMedical Corridor, a 506-acre area that connects Akron's renowned biomedical innovation centers, including The University of Akron, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center, Summa Health System and the Austen BioInnovation Institute. Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade project will further increase access to Downtown Akron by linking together adjacent infrastructure investments made in the earlier Phase I of this project as well as the Cedar-Exchange Complete Street project and the Oak Park Renewal Project.

Taken as a whole, the Downtown Akron Promenade project will realize the long-needed renovation of the major connections within the northern downtown area and, upon its completion, will help connect local business to the global market. Assistance from USDOT under the TIGER program would provide the critical transportation assets necessary to both advance the strategic goals of the Department and to bolster the continued growth of the City of Akron and the greater Northeast Ohio region.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grants coordinator, Linda Greenwood, at 419-259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator