

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: The Downtown Akron Promenade

Dear Mr. Foxx,

As members of the Ohio delegation, we are pleased to show our support for the City of Akron's TIGER application for the construction of the Downtown Akron Promenade along the South Main Street Corridor. This project would advance USDOT strategic goals and benefit Akron and Northeast Ohio by:

Improving Public Health and Safety by constructing a "Complete Street" providing better parking, vehicular and bicycle access, transit waiting environments, and pedestrian connectivity.

Ensuring a State of Good Repair by rehabilitating Main Street within the Right-of-Way.

Promoting Economic Competitiveness by linking Downtown Akron with the surrounding community and overall regional multimodal transportation network in support of the many downtown businesses and growing residential population along the corridor.

Fostering Livable Communities by integrating transportation investments with vibrant recreational attractions, cultural institutions, and centers of higher learning along the corridor.

Advancing Environmentally Sustainability by integrating stormwater management to provide CSO reduction and improving air quality by reducing reliance on single-occupancy automobiles.

The City of Akron has numerous transportation improvements on the horizon including the Cedar-Exchange Complete Street project and the Oak Park Project which will reconfigure Dart and Rand. The Downtown Akron Promenade will complete the face lift of the major connections within Akron's downtown area, which will help support local and global business.

South Main Street is a critical artery in the Downtown Akron Innovation District, as well as the Akron BioMedical Corridor, a 506-acre area designated to promote business incubation and development that connects The University of Akron, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center, Summa Health System and the Austen BioInnovation Institute. Akron is quickly becoming a global hub of innovation, attracting international biomedical technologies and companies that are looking for help in commercializing their products and expanding into a global market and the Downtown Akron Promenade is a direct link into the Downtown Innovation District.

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This TIGER Discretionary Grant request will provide the critical transportation assets necessary to bolster Downtown by providing the vibrant, urban setting required to foster creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to ensure the continued growth of innovation in Akron. Your support and consideration for this vital transportation project for the people of the City of Akron and Northeast Ohio is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



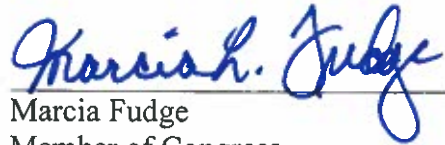
Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



David Joyce
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



James Renacci
Member of Congress