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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2017

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

RE: The Downtown Akron Promenade Phase II

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of the City of Akron's application for the USDOT's TIGER Grant for the construction of *Phase II 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 enhanced parking, vehicular and bicycle access, and pedestrian connectivity.
- Promoting Economic Competitiveness by linking Downtown Akron with the emerging Northside District, home to lodging, several dining, entertainment and retail businesses, and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad by constructing a pedestrian bridge over a dangerous crossing of SR 59.
- 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.

This project will provide a northern gateway to Downtown Akron by linking adjacent infrastructure investments currently under development. Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade will complete the face lift of major connections within the northern downtown area and support our businesses. The Downtown Akron Promenade is a vital link into the Downtown Innovation District that will attract international biomedical technologies and companies.

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 catalytic transportation project for the people of the City of Akron and Northeast Ohio is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-7032.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress