

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are writing in strong support of the City of Detroit's application under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program requesting \$12.2 million to complete the funding plan for the M-1 Rail streetcar project (M-1 Rail) in Detroit.

The 3.31 mile project will link some of the region's most visited venues, including several major employers, world class museums and theaters, two institutions of higher education, two leading medical centers, and three professional sports stadiums. With over \$100 million in private and philanthropic contributions to fund capital and other related costs, this project sets a new precedent for regional cooperation and is a game-changer for a city in the midst of a great financial crisis. We believe construction of the M-1 Rail from downtown to midtown Detroit will bring people from all over the world to Detroit's business corridor and catalyze new economic opportunities for Detroit and beyond. The project also represents a dynamic shift in how people will be transported in Detroit and will be the foundation for future transportation projects that are already being planned, not only in Detroit but in the region.

We understand this project is ready to break ground. The project sponsors have secured the necessary environmental approvals, negotiated construction and operating licenses, and selected a general contractor. However, without the requested \$12.2 million TIGER grant, this important project will be delayed indefinitely, and we fear the resulting costs could make the project unaffordable.

As you are well aware, a city's future rests on its ability attract new economic opportunities. A strong future for Detroit must include a completed M-1 Rail as a magnet for these opportunities and the jobs that come with them. We urge the Department's continued support of this extraordinary project and hope you will award a TIGER grant to close the funding gap.

Sincerely,





James L. ...

Paul ...

John Coyne, Jr.

Gary C. ...

Cc: Denis McDonough, Chief of Staff to the President
Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President
Donald Graves, Executive Director, President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness