

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2013

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write in support of the City of Springfield, Illinois' application for TIGER grant funding for construction of a railroad underpass at Carpenter Street. The underpass is an important component of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, which in turn is a segment of the ongoing Chicago to St. Louis passenger rail corridor investments. The future of the Springfield Rail Improvement project depends on federal support for rail projects. This project meets all six of the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER grant selection criteria and is an excellent candidate for federal funding.

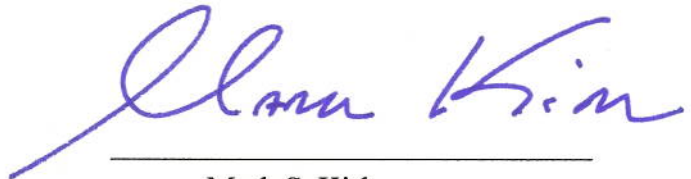
The City of Springfield proposes building the Carpenter Street Underpass at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street railroad tracks and Carpenter Street. The project is a beginning step toward double tracking the Chicago to St. Louis rail corridor, increasing capacity for additional passenger service along the 110 mph route. The underpass will allow the City to eliminate three at-grade rail/highway crossings, decreasing car and train accidents by 80 percent, reducing vehicle delays at rail crossings by 71 percent and improving access for emergency first responders for thousands of Springfield residents. The project is a vital step for the entire area's rail improvement strategy, as the free flow of police, fire and medical services must be preserved before other grade crossings are addressed.

Sufficient work has been completed to allow the City to meet the rigorous TIGER obligation schedule. The City estimates that federal funds will be ready for obligation well within the allotted timeframe. We encourage you to give the City's detailed application every consideration possible.

Sincerely,



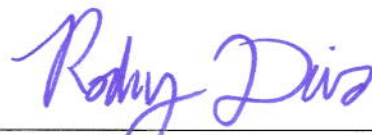
Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator



Mark S. Kirk  
U.S. Senator



Aaron Schock  
U.S. Representative



Rodney Davis  
U.S. Representative