



EOLSO PROSPERITY

## County of Erie

MARK C. POLONCARZ  
COMPTROLLER

ED

December 8, 2011

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

**RE: GRANT 10994106; Opportunity DTOS59-11-RA-TIGER3**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to urge your support for the City of Buffalo's application for the United States Department of Transportation's ("DOT") TIGER Discretionary Grant program. The Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project ("Main Street Project"), which seeks to rebuild Main Street in downtown Buffalo to restore automobile access, is the City's highest priority capital project. I believe the Main Street Project fully accomplishes the goals of the TIGER Discretionary Grant program and, therefore, is worthy of this funding.

Both New York State and the U.S. Congress have recently awarded funding to the Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project in recognition of the importance of the project to the City of Buffalo. The 700 Block of Main Street was reopened in 2009 and the 600 Block of Main Street is scheduled for construction during 2012. A TIGER Discretionary Grant program grant will allow the City to upgrade transit and pedestrian amenities, provide access to Main Street buildings, improve downtown traffic circulation and re-introduce vehicular traffic along Buffalo's downtown transit mall.

Automobiles were removed from Main Street over 25 years ago when the light rail Metro Rail system was built. While Metro Rail is a benefit to Buffalo, closing the premier downtown street to automobiles has resulted in vacancy, lost property and tax value, and has hampered economic development efforts in downtown Buffalo. I believe completion of this project will help to reverse these effects, while increasing multi-modal access options and transit ridership and, ultimately, improving the quality of life for residents.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Comptroller,  
Erie County Executive-elect

MCP/mc

cc: Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand  
Hon. Louise M. Slaughter  
Hon. Brian Higgins  
Hon. Kathleen Hochul  
Hon. Erie County Legislature  
Hon. Byron Brown  
Michael Schmand