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FINANCE

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

October 6, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation ("Department") evaluates applications for TIGER grants, I would like to bring your attention to the application submitted by the City of Akron, for the construction of Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade. This project, situated along the South Main Street Corridor, would provide significant benefits to Akron and its Northeast Main Street Corridor while advancing the Department's strategic goals.

This project would have a transformative effect on the City of Akron. It would allow the city to enhance parking, vehicular and bicycle access, improve pedestrian connectivity, and assist transit waiting areas. The project would connect areas such as Downtown Akron with the jobs, businesses, homes, dining, entertainment, and retail of the emerging Northside District of the city. Further, it would integrate transportation infrastructure with the cultural institutions, recreational attractions, and institutions of higher education along the corridor, boosting the economy in Akron. The project would also integrate a stormwater management system and improve air quality by reducing the dependence on single-occupancy vehicles. These tangible benefits to Akron would also address the Department's goals of: Improving Public Health and Safety, Ensuring a State of Good Repair, Promoting Economic Competitiveness, Fostering Livable Communities, and Advancing Environmental Sustainability.

Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade also connects this corridor with ongoing infrastructure improvements including Phase I of the Downtown Akron Promenade, the Cedar-Exchange Complete Street Project, and the Oak Park Renewal Project, while also providing a connection to Downtown Akron. This project would improve an important link between Akron's BioMedical Corridor and the Akron Innovation District, fostering growth and expansion of biomedical technologies in the area.

Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade project would have a widespread impact on Akron and Northeast Ohio. I ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration. For additional information, please contact Leah Hill ([Leah\\_Hill@brown.senate.gov](mailto:Leah_Hill@brown.senate.gov)) in my office.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator