

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
CONNECTICUT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

It is my pleasure to write in support of the application submitted by the State of Connecticut for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant for the New Britain-Hartford Busway Project.

Funding for this project will allow for continued development of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) facility along nearly ten miles between downtown New Britain and downtown Hartford. The project will utilize a state-owned, abandoned rail right-of-way and will include up to eleven transit stations that will serve Busway riders. The plan includes express buses, shuttles between the downtown areas of New Britain and Hartford, circulator buses that can connect to trip generators, and connecting feeder bus services. The buses that use the Busway are predicted to have a more competitive travel time than automobiles as they will bypass the more congested areas of Interstate 84.

The addition of the Busway will improve access to jobs for area residents, as many are without the means to commute. This is a very important step for this region of Connecticut. The Busway will also help the state to manage roadway congestion on I-84 and parallel arterials, and provide opportunities to encourage Transit Oriented Development (TOD) around Busway stations.

Traffic gridlock in Connecticut affects the quality of life for our residents, and it threatens to do real economic harm to our state. Funding for this project will encourage more commuters to use transit, get more cars off of our clogged interstates, and ensure our continued ability to attract new businesses to the state. I support this proposal and, therefore, respectfully request that it receive full and fair consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

JIL/kmm/jmj