

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4402

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support for an application for the Sugar House Streetcar Project, located in my Congressional district, under the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County are committed to regional cooperation, smart growth policies, and transit investments that encourage livable, sustainable communities. This region and its public agencies have a solid record of delivering value for public investments, effectively controlling costs, using innovative project delivery and construction methods in order to complete projects on time and within budget.

The Sugar House Streetcar Project seems very likely to build on this successful record. The project is an innovative joint venture between the Utah Transit Authority and two cities, Salt Lake City and South Salt Lake. The cities have worked together to adopt policies and zoning along the prospective transit corridor to facilitate transit-oriented development.

The project will connect an area redeveloped over the past decade with the existing UTA light rail system and will hopefully provide a seamless expansion of the transit system. Major redevelopment projects are poised to begin construction which will hopefully lead to new development on currently vacant lots and deteriorating former industrial sites. Given the current state of the economy, this transportation connector- coupled with the economic development opportunity spurred by its creation- would be yet another success story in this community.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. Please feel free to contact Ms. Kristen Lingley in my Washington, D.C. office should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress