



March 14, 2012

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

RE: Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the New York State Department of Transportation's TIGER application for the Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center (RITC). This project of both regional and statewide significance will be a great enhancement to the City of Rochester and the entire Empire Corridor. The RITC will greatly enhance the experience of travelers to, from, and through Rochester by providing a safe, accessible, and up-to-date facility.

The Rochester Amtrak Station currently operates out of an aging, temporary facility built in 1978. Not only are there few services available for passenger comfort, but connectivity with other modes and the city as a whole is very limited. The new station will be truly intermodal, providing access to inter- and intra-city buses, car rentals, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and vehicular parking. Travelers will have peace of mind knowing they can safely and easily reach their destination.

Customer accessibility and comfort are at the forefront of the station's design. Enhanced passenger access through high-level platforms and an overhead bridge as well as improved operational reliability through additional trackage and modern signaling will combine to reduce dwell time at the station. Customer experience will be improved by the inclusion of retail and/or food service operations in the new station.

The area immediately surrounding the station has suffered from disinvestment for many years. Neighbors, business owners, and community groups welcome the RITC as an economic engine for the station area, downtown, and Rochester's northeast quadrant. Nearby hotels, retail, dining, and tourist attractions will benefit from this new gateway to the city and region.

To further demonstrate the City of Rochester's commitment to this project, the City will contribute \$500,000 toward construction. This project has the support of Amtrak and the Genesee Transportation Council, the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the Rochester Intermodal Transportation Center. I ask that this application be given your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Richards
Mayor

