



Brian Wagner

Lead Advocate and Chief Content Cyclist
Bike Hoboken

Hoboken New Jersey 07030
917-751-0012

info@bikehoboken.com

cyclewag@gmail.com

www.Facebook.com/bikehoboken

www.bikehoboken.com

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The Honorable Dawn Zimmer
Mayor, City of Hoboken
94 Washington Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030

RE: Letter of Support for Hoboken, NJ's Application for a USDOT TIGER Grant for Washington Street Complete Streets Revitalization Project

Dear Mayor Zimmer:

Hoboken's future is here now!

The City of Hoboken Master Plan, dated Jun 25, 2004, page 2 of the Executive Summary outlined the future of transportation within the City. Our City is a mile-square community with deeply rooted traditions and historic quality that is nonetheless experiencing dramatic demographic and physical changes.

Hoboken, a historic and vibrant community, has redefined itself numerous times since the days of Colonel Stevens. We are now engrossed in the next major design change for our city that will set us up for generations to come. Hoboken has proudly been designated one of the top walkable and top bicycle friendly cities in the USA. Over the past few years, Hoboken has been recognized for multiple award designations including our Washington Street being named one of the top 10 great streets for 2010 by American Planning Association.

As quoted by you [our Mayor]

"Washington Street is Hoboken's historic hub of community activity... Unique, independently-owned shops, outdoor cafés, world-class restaurants, and street fairs attract young professionals, families with strollers, joggers, and bicyclists who create a vibrant urban mix of activity and street life... Although Hoboken has transitioned over the centuries from an industrial region into a bustling residential community, Washington Street has thrived by adapting to the community's evolving needs..."

The following bullets are just some of the objectives since implemented in recent years, hence making huge strides in meeting with the multimodal transit needs of our rapidly growing 55,000+ residential

population and untold visitor population to our multi-award designated Washington Street:

- Making it safer to walk and bicycle in Hoboken because of new facilities, intersection improvements, and other actions
- All residents will have improved transit access as expanded light rail service and a system of jitney routes will connect all parts of the City
- Public parking inventory will be increased through shared parking, new garages, and better utilization of existing facilities
- Shuttles and taxi stands will serve the garages, light rail stops, and Washington Street
- Flexible pricing, information technology, and improved signage will promote use of empty garages

Key aspect of Washington Street:

“The street brings pedestrians directly to retail and commercial businesses via a mix of transportation options and is a great model for similar neighborhoods and communities.”

Yet the biggest challenge Hoboken faces is being able to realize the full extent of the Complete Streets initiative which will advance our great City ahead, meeting both the present day and future needs of our robust bedroom community and thriving commercial sector.

Bike Hoboken, a citizen-based advocacy organization aims to make Hoboken streets safe and welcoming for bicyclists of all age groups and experience levels. The bicycle is an excellent, effective and efficient alternative mode of transportation perfectly suited to the urban setting and road conditions of Hoboken whose streets are clogged with motor vehicles. Bike Hoboken represents and encourages use of the bicycle for all “bicyclists”, including but not limited to commuters to jobs, to schools, those doing errands and/or visiting our restaurants along our commercial corridor, for leisure and exercise along our award winning waterfront.

Bike Hoboken has partnered with the City Administration, hand-in-hand, since you’ve taken office and together we have made incredible advances. Advances and accomplishments which had been recognized back on October 15, 2012 by the League of American Bicyclists, in Washington DC. Hoboken had been designated by The League as a Bronze Level, Bicycle Friendly Community.

Hoboken is primed and ready to take the next major step to finish what we have envisioned and started. Realizing our fullest potential through the revitalization of Washington Street will set us as the progressive model for the rest of Hudson County, state of New Jersey and the nation.

Bike Hoboken fully supports the Revitalization Project through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. This would enable Hoboken to further enhance our city’s infrastructure, our transit options, and most importantly, improve pedestrian and ped-cyclist safety which will improve overall quality of life for families, visitors, and all residents of Hoboken.

Sincerely,

Brian Wagner
Lead Advocate
Bike Hoboken