

Michele N. Siekerka
President

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support - TIGER Grant Application for Washington Street Rehabilitation,
Hoboken, New Jersey

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, I would like to extend my full support behind the City of Hoboken's \$14 million TIGER grant application to rehabilitate, resurface and revitalize Washington Street.

The New Jersey Business & Industry Association provides information, services and advocacy to its member companies in order to build a more prosperous New Jersey. NJBIA is the nation's largest statewide employer association. Its members, as a group, employ more than one million people. Today, the Association's 20,000 plus members represent every industry in the State, including contractors, manufacturers, retail and wholesale businesses, and service providers of every kind. NJBIA today is widely regarded as the most credible and effective advocate for business in the State.

Washington Street is a major commercial corridor in northern New Jersey and if funded, the project will enhance the economic competitiveness of both Hoboken and the North Jersey region. The N.J. Business and Industry Association commends the City of Hoboken for employing a "fix it first" strategy to keep this vital roadway in a state of good repair. Washington Street's infrastructure is old and in need of major repair and rehabilitation. I understand that the City of Hoboken is offering to replace its 120 year old water main and services beneath Washington Street as part of a \$5 million local match. If funded, this project would improve the overall quality of life in an extremely dense urbanized community. Hoboken is also a combined sewer municipality and the project will promote environmental sustainability through the implementation of green infrastructure to capture stormwater run-off and reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution and sewage discharges to the Hudson River.

The Washington Street project is transformative and catalytic for a community heavily impacted by Superstorm Sandy. If funded, the grant will also help leverage additional federal investments being made through HUD's Rebuild By Design project. I strongly support Hoboken's proposal and highly recommend that the USDOT favorably consider Hoboken's TIGER grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele N. Siekerka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michele" and last name "Siekerka" clearly legible.

Michele N. Siekerka,
President and CEO