

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We are writing to urge your consideration of an application submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation Natural Resources for a TIGER 2 Discretionary Grant. The program is called Generating Recovery by Enhancing Active Transportation in the Mid-Atlantic region (GREAT-Mid-Atlantic) to build trail segments in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey and it will enhance major trail and pedestrian/bikeway corridors in those states.

Currently, this trail corridor is hampered by the critical gap between the Wilmington Riverwalk and the recently completed phase 1 of the New Castle Industrial Track Greenway. Closing this gap will strengthen connections between communities, commercial centers, schools and open green spaces and make opportunities for active transportation more readily available and accessible.

This application proposes to construct thirty important rural and urban trail, greenway and bicycle and pedestrian segments that will close gaps in and create greater connectivity among seven major trail corridors. In Delaware, the application includes engineering plans for a key gap in the New Castle to Wilmington Industrial Track Greenway to provide for a traffic free route between historic New Castle and Downtown Wilmington.

This application will enhance efforts at the state and local level to create connected greenways to provide sustainable transportation routes and to improve recreational amenities. Closing gaps in the seven Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey trail systems and urban complete street networks will enhance livability in many urban and rural communities.

Once a decision has been reached or if further information is required, please contact us through our respective staff members: Mr. Josh Magarik of Senator Carper's office may be reached at (302) 573-6291; Mr. Brian Horsey of Senator Kaufman's office may be reached at (302) 573-6345; and Ms. Erin Innes of Congressman Castle's office may be reached at (302) 428-1902.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Edward E. Kaufman
United States Senator



Michael N. Castle
Member of Congress