NEIL M. O'LEARY MAYOR



JOSEPH A. GEARY CHIEF OF STAFF

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### THE CITY OF WATERBURY

CONNECTICUT

April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut, I am proud to submit the **Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project (WATER)** for FY 2014 National Infrastructure Investments funding. Rebuilding the economy here in Connecticut's Central Naugatuck River Valley starts with Waterbury, the region's core. The requested \$19 million, combined with the \$10 million contribution that the City of Waterbury has authorized, will reposition Waterbury and the region at a time when a large investment in the right project will make all the difference.

The City of Waterbury is challenged. The U.S. Department of Labor ranks the Waterbury metropolitan area 345 out of 372 in employment. In Connecticut, the Waterbury Labor Market Area has had the highest unemployment rate for twelve straight years. With 20.9 % of our 110,336 residents living below the Federal Poverty Level, Waterbury is now Connecticut's most distressed city.

We all know that transportation is about connecting people to each other, their jobs, services, schools and play. It's also about defining growth - how businesses grow and flourish. The requested funding will provide transportation options to people who have few. It will build the infrastructure needed to catalyze transit-oriented redevelopment of an underutilized industrial neighborhood adjacent to the Train Station and downtown, attracting jobs and new investment. It will support ongoing Train Station improvements and expanding transit services. Lastly, it will reconnect our City to its riverfront and bring historically blighted river corridor neighborhoods back to life once again. Understanding **WATER** is easy - it's about giving people access to the ladder of opportunity, making the climb a little easier and making Waterbury their City of Choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for TIGER funding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely

Neil M. O'Leary

Mayor



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546 NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546



Office of the Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 24, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Subject: City of Waterbury's Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence TIGER VI Grant Application

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) is pleased to support the City of Waterbury's Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (WATER) project for consideration under the TIGER VI Grant program.

This project has the potential to stimulate economic redevelopment and improve the livability and vitality of the City of Waterbury (City) and surrounding areas through the investment in transportation infrastructure. The City's proposal complements several Department initiatives underway related to the Waterbury train station, and further supports access to jobs by currently underserved Title VI populations that reside near the station.

The Waterbury train station is a multi-modal center connecting our fixed route bus service and Metro-North commuter rail service on the Waterbury Branch Line. The Department is undertaking a series of improvements to the station as well as the rail and bus service to the station. These include:

- Station Improvements. Improvements recently completed or underway include: demolition
  and environmental cleanup of an abandoned building on the station property; expansion of
  station parking and enhanced security for the parking area; and renovation of an existing
  building to provide an indoor waiting area and restrooms.
- Rail Service Improvements. The Department is developing plans to improve commuter rail service on the Waterbury Branch Line. Improvements to the track and signal system will allow more frequent trains during peak commute times. With the proposed improvements, Waterbury will have frequent and reliable commuter rail connections to the New Haven Line which is the nation's busiest commuter rail line. It will give Waterbury residents access to major employment centers such as New Haven, Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford, and New York City.

• Bus Service Improvements. The Department plans to redirect city bus routes to serve the station, and is also creating a new Waterbury – Hartford express route that will operate via the new CTfastrak rapid transit line.

The station improvements and additional transit service will boost ridership and bring more people and activity to the station area. The City's proposed street improvements will greatly improve vehicular access to the station; and the proposed pedestrian and multi-use trail improvements will greatly enhance pedestrian connections to downtown Waterbury, to surrounding low-income neighborhoods, and to park and recreational facilities along the proposed greenway.

Taken as a whole, this application will leverage investments the state and federal government are making to revitalize this area of Waterbury. It is part of a multi-modal strategy to develop a coordinated system of pedestrian, bicycle, rail, bus, and driving options.

The Department strongly supports the City's efforts and believes their initiative is well aligned with both state and federal transportation goals. I respectfully request that it receive your full consideration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

James Redeker Commissioner April 21, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Foxx:

At its March 14, 2014 board meeting, the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV), acting upon a recommendation of the Regional Planning Commission, voted unanimously to partner with the City of Waterbury on its TIGER VI proposal to transform the city's Freight Street and Naugatuck River transportation corridors to foster new economic opportunities. Our region's chief elected officials see the city's proposal as having transformative potential for Waterbury as well as the neighboring municipalities in the Central Naugatuck Valley Region. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 13 municipality region, COGCNV officially and enthusiastically endorses Waterbury's application.

No other location in the Central Naugatuck Valley Region has the unrealized development potential of the Freight Street corridor. It is bounded by the region's most significant transportation assets: the I-84/Route 8 interchange, the Metro-North commuter rail, and the future Naugatuck River Greenway. Nevertheless, the Freight Street Corridor is underutilized and abandoned because it lacks basic connections to the transportation infrastructures that surround it.

Freight Street is a poor substitute for the discontinued rail-sidings that served the corridor's former brass foundry buildings. Freight Street is not connected to the city's street grid to the north and south. Consequentially, although expressways are near this area, only Route 8 North is easily accessible. Furthermore, a low-clearance railroad bridge near Meadow Street makes Freight Street, ironically, a cul-de-sac for freight. Waterbury's TIGER proposal will construct the long planned Jackson Street – Thomaston Avenue connector and will connect the Freight Street corridor to the rest of the city and to the region's expressway network.

Transit access to the Freight Street corridor is similarly frustrating. Although Metro-North trains are visible from Freight Street, there is no direct, safe, and attractive connection between the corridor and the Waterbury train and future CTFastrak BRT station. The proposed up and over pedestrian bridge and complete street retrofit of Freight and Meadow Streets will provide the pedestrian and bicycle connections needed to make transit accessible development possible in the Freight Street corridor.

The most exciting and ambitious element of Waterbury's TIGER proposal is the Naugatuck River Greenway. With the extension of the Naugatuck River Greenway into the Freight Street corridor, this abandoned area, which no one thinks about or ventures to, becomes a real place that is desirable and special. The multi-use trail will provide residents and visitors a safe place

to walk, bicycle, and access the now clean Naugatuck River. As planned connections are completed, it will become an alternative transportation commuter facility as well. Along with the associated parks to be built separately, the Naugatuck River Greenway will give people a reason to come to this new neighborhood and to support new development. The place-making potential of waterfront redevelopment has been demonstrated in cities across the country, and COGCNV believes it will help ensure the success of any federal TIGER investment.

The improvements proposed in Waterbury's TIGER application are supported by the regional long range transportation plan, regional and state plans of conservation and development, and numerous technical studies and corridor plans. The first phase of the Naugatuck River Greenway is on COGCNV's transportation improvement program (TIP), funded, in part, by the MPO's entire allocation of MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives funds. If Waterbury's TIGER application is successful, the project will be added to the COGCNV TIP.

As a partner in Waterbury's TIGER proposal, COGCNV will not only support the city with technical and administrative assistance, but ensure the coordination of Waterbury's proposal with the system of local, regional, state, and federal transportation planning, design, and capital projects. The redevelopment of the Freight Street corridor will leverage millions of dollars of transportation investments that are currently taking place, including the new Waterbury train station, Waterbury Branch rail line signalization, Waterbury's CMAQ traffic signal coordination project, and major transit improvements such as CTTransit evening bus service and CTFastrak service to Hartford and New Britain.

Waterbury's TIGER proposal is a unique opportunity to extend Waterbury's walkable, mixed-use downtown, increase transit accessibility, and to redefine the city's image around an enjoyable and attractive riverfront greenway. Investment in these transportation improvements will support the city's economic recovery and the larger regional economy. A redeveloped Freight Street corridor will provide space for new medical facilities immediately adjacent to Waterbury's two hospitals, instead of in far flung greenfield sites in the suburbs. The corridor also provides opportunities for real transit oriented development that will be attractive to younger and older generations that are less interested in or able to rely on cars.

COGCNV looks forward to partnering with the City of Waterbury to realize this opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me about Waterbury's TIGER application or my organization's commitment to the project.

Sincerely,

Samuel S. Gold, AICP

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**Executive Director** 

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April 24, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Waterbury Development Corporation (WDC) enthusiastically supports *The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project* that is being submitted by the City of Waterbury for FY2014 TIGER funding. We look forward to continuing our many partnerships with the City on transportation and economic development initiatives as a Partner in this exciting project.

WDC is the City's designated economic and community development agency. Governed by a 23-member Board of Directors representing the private and public sectors, WDC runs a highly successful Brownfield Reinvestment Program; administers the City's HUD Entitlement funding; oversees urban blight initiatives; and, manages key capital improvement projects. We know from experience that the WATER project will advance revitalization of our disinvested urban corridor neighborhoods, provide improvements to quality of life and create transportation access to jobs and education that will help our disadvantaged residents climb the ladder of opportunity. In addition, as project manager for the City's Train Station renovation, we are well-versed in the expanding transit opportunities planned for the Station and the need for a City infrastructure that supports this expansion and lays the foundation for transit-oriented development.

As a Partner in WATER, the WDC will provide technical guidance to the City on various economic development components and how they may be integrated with ongoing community development projects. We will be working closely with the City as we manage the demolition and remediation of the 17-acre Anamet brownfield site, which is the site of a segment of Phase 2 of the City's greenway project. We will also assist the City in creating a meaningful public outreach /participation plan for the project as we move forward.

We urge you to favorably consider the City's application.

Sincerely,

Todd Montello

Chief Executive Officer

## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 25, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx Secretary United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Re: TIGER VI Grant

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We write in support of the application submitted by the city of Waterbury, Connecticut for funding from the TIGER Grant program. Funds from this grant would be utilized by the city to support its "Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence" (WATER) project. The project, as part of a larger ongoing initiative to reform and revitalize the city's landscape, will catalyze redevelopment of 60 acres of under-utilized downtown land around the city's train station. The redevelopment will establish active transportation connections between the train station, the downtown, and a 44-mile Naugatuck River Greenway system that connects Waterbury and surrounding towns along the river, which will better facilitate economic activity in the region.

Recognized as one of the nation's 100 best outdoor projects by the Secretary of the Interior's "America's Great Outdoors: 50 State Report," this project constitutes the second phase – and most challenging urban component – of the Naugatuck River Greenway redevelopment initiative, helping to reposition the industrial riverfront for sustainable redevelopment. The project will create new transportation connections and better access to the city's train station and downtown, encouraging existing businesses and industries to expand while also attracting new ones and enabling job creation. Better access to downtown services and employment will support the needs of the city's distressed neighborhoods, thus reconnecting corridor neighborhoods and improving livability while also addressing environmental justice concerns.

Specifically, redesigned streets surrounding the train station will alleviate traffic in front of the station and complement federal and state-funded improvements to the train station. The redesign will also support future multi-modal services at the station, including access to the state's CT Fastrak initiative – which will provide transit bus service on a dedicated lane connecting Waterbury to our capital city of Hartford with service due to begin next year; the Waterbury bus stop will connect riders to the train station and downtown area. As the state's fifth largest municipality by population with over 110,000 people, the city is located at the

intersection of two of the state's major highways – I-84 and Route 8 – with the train station serving as the northern-most stop on Metro-North's Waterbury Branch Line, from which hundreds of riders travel to New York for work. The state is currently investing \$6.7 million to design positive train control and signalization systems along the Waterbury Branch Line to facilitate expansion of ridership. Because the station currently acts as a physical barrier to the riverfront, construction of a pedestrian bridge and bicycle ramp will alleviate the inconvenience, connecting the downtown Library Park to the train station to the riverfront greenway.

To fully fund this project, the city has already secured \$10 million in non-federal matching funds that have been approved by its Board of Aldermen. Waterbury has successfully administered federal funds for past and ongoing projects, utilizing nearly \$6 million for the first phase of the greenway initiative and receiving American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for various public infrastructure projects. The city has also established strong working partnerships necessary for general project development, including with the state's Department of Transportation, the Waterbury Development Corporation<sup>1</sup>, and the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley<sup>2</sup>.

Projects such as WATER are vital to restoring accessibility and livability while expanding access to intermodal transportation networks for the region. TIGER funding would provide considerable support for the city's needs. Therefore, we fully support this application and ask for your consideration of this very worthy proposal.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

United States Senate

ROSA L. DELAURO

Member of Congress

HRIS OPHLICS. MURPHY

United States Senate

ELIZABETH H. ESTY

Member of Congress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Waterbury Development Corporation is a nonprofit entity and is the designated economic development agency for the city of Waterbury.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV) is one of 14 state-created regional planning organizations that carry out a variety of planning activities for the municipalities within each respective region. Waterbury belongs to COGCNV.



## State of Connecticut General Assembly

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

April 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Waterbury delegation of State legislators strongly supports the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application, *Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence*. We believe that the project's innovative infrastructure improvements will have a profound effect on the City of Waterbury. We are most excited about its potential to greatly enhance local and regional rail and transit improvements.

As a delegation, we have vigorously advocated for funding to improve Waterbury's train station and the connector streets that surround it. Recently, we were successful in securing state and federal funds to demolish a vacant, blighted building that sat adjacent to the train station. This funding will allow for a number of other improvements to the station, including, an expanded parking lot; a bus pickup and drop-off zone; enhanced lighting and landscaping; and, a new waiting room with restrooms and other amenities. As we stood together several weeks ago for the groundbreaking of this project, we realized that Waterbury's TIGER project would significantly expand the momentum of revitalization that exists currently. By reconstructing existing, underutilized streets into complete streets and encouraging transit oriented development, Waterbury's project will better connect the train station to downtown and make it much more accessible.

The Waterbury train station has the potential to become a vibrant hub of activity. The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has recognized it as a rail line of regional and state importance and is committed to supporting its growth and expansion. Commissioner Redeker recently identified the Waterbury branch as "a gem that needs to be polished." In addition to the improvements outlined above, the Waterbury line will be upgraded with signalization, positive train controls and additional sidings. Also, in the next year, CT fastrak bus service will be offered between the Waterbury train station and Hartford. The completion of Waterbury's project would provide ladders of opportunity for many residents, as it would expand the region's viable transportation options.

In the City of Waterbury's 2005 Plan of Conservation and Development, Freight Street, which borders the train station to the north, was identified as "the last major redevelopment opportunity with the potential for a transformative impact on the city economy." We wholeheartedly agree that Waterbury's project will transform and positively redefine the

downtown as well as the City as a whole. We eagerly look forward to working with local, state and federal officials in an effort to complete Waterbury's TIGER project- the most comprehensive transportation, revitalization and economic development effort ever undertaken by the City of Waterbury.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Joan V. Hartley

State Senator, 15th District

Victor Cuevas

State Representative, 75th District

Selim G. Noujaim

State Representative, 74th District

oé Markley

State Senator, 16th District

Jeffrey Berger

State Representative, 73rd District

Anthony J. D'Amelio

State Representative, 71st District

Larry B. Butler

State Representative, 72<sup>nd</sup> District

### AFJROTC CT-941 NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL 543 RUBBER AVENUE NAUGATUCK CT 06770 203-720-5293

April 9, 2014

Kathleen L. McNamara
Office of the Mayor
Grants Administrator, City of Waterbury
235 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Ms. McNamara

Each spring and fall since 2010, the Naugatuck High School Junior Air Force ROTC Cadets and its leaders have completed cleanups of Linden Park in Naugatuck. In addition to clearing rubbish in the park, the greenway and the Naugatuck River banks, our cadets have helped beautify and restore the riverbanks by planting flowering bulbs, grass seeds and willow cuttings. The plantings and cuttings help to stabilize the riverbanks, and prevent the erosion of soil into the Naugatuck River. Each fall and spring our cadets also inspect established bird nesting houses and construct and erect new houses as needed to help support the river's bird population.

For many of our AFJROTC cadets, walking on the greenway and along the Naugatuck riverbanks was their first experience in community conservation and this has become one our signature projects. Our cadets have enjoyed this important challenge while learning about conservation and their community. They have acknowledged that our community and the residents should have more access to the natural beauty and wildlife that the Naugatuck River and its adjoining land provide.

The Naugatuck High School Junior Air Force ROTC Cadets and its leadership support Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application.

Sincerely

VALERIE J. LOFLAND, Lt Col, USAF (ret)

Senior Aerospace Science Instructor

April 16, 2014

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

**Dear Secretary Foxx:** 

I am writing to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project.

The Bozzuto family is the owner of a piece of property located at 195 Freight Street and has longstanding ties to the Greater Waterbury business community, with an excellent record of public service.

Presently, Waterbury's Freight Street corridor suffers from disinvestment, yet with over 60 acres of flat, underutilized land, it holds great potential for redevelopment. The redesign of Freight Street as a 'complete street' and the extension of Jackson Street through to Freight Street and then on to West Main Street, as envisioned by the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project, will create the needed infrastructure to incentivize that redevelopment. Additionally, the new Jackson Street will link northern and southern retail centers at each end and provide a much needed north-south connector that will alleviate traffic congestion on both West Main Street and on Meadow Street in front of the Train Station.

This exciting, transformative, and innovative project will have a tremendously positive impact on the city, and on the entire Naugatuck River Valley region, and I look forward to working with the City of Waterbury to make this project a success,

On behalf of myself and my family, I urge favorable consideration of the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project submitted by the City of Waterbury for funding under the TIGER VI Discretionary Grant program.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Bozzuto

## BRASS CITY LUMBER CO, INC.

April 22, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to endorse the City of Waterbury's "Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence" project for TIGER VI program funding.

As the owner of property that will directly affected by the improvements proposed by the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project, I want to express my strong support the project and applaud the city for its efforts to improve Waterbury's economic vitality, business climate and quality of life. Additionally, I have been fully informed about the project and welcome the transportation infrastructure improvements and resulting development opportunities that the project will bring to our city and region.

The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project will serve to revitalize Waterbury's Freight Street Corridor which has been underutilized and cut off from the Central Business District for decades, and yet the land is flat, borders the riverfront and is a short distance from I-84 and CT Route 8 entrance and exit ramps. All it has needed is the transportation infrastructure to make the needed connections and render the area attractive for redevelopment.

This project is essential to the continued economic growth of Waterbury, and of the communities along the Naugatuck River. I strongly encourage your favorable consideration of Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application for this important project.

Respectfully,

Joseph S. Castelano

President

Brass City Lumber Co, Inc

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

From: Clifford W Burrell
Senior Partner of 1212 South Main St & My Tool Company
1258 South Main St Waterbury Ct 06706

Subject: TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong endorsement of the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project.

As a business owner, who has spent a tremendous amount of time and money to upgrade our property which is adjacent to the improvements proposed by the **Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project**, I support the project and applaud the city for its efforts to improve Waterbury's economic vitality, business climate and livability. This project will provide access to employment opportunities, educational facilities and enhanced recreational experiences, especially for the 'South End' neighborhood, once home to Waterbury's brass industry and now burdened with an abundance of brownfields, little access to the riverfront and no public parks.

The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project, if funded, will compliment, and further, the city's efforts in the areas of brownfield redevelopment, enhancing transportation and improving public infrastructure, as well help to reestablish, and to reconnect, neighborhoods in the former Naugatuck River Valley industrial corridor.

I speak from my heart as myself and my partner have personally invested our life long savings into this area in hopes that not only Waterbury but the USA can once again become the gold standard in Manufacturing and civic duty. I strongly encourage your favorable consideration of Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application for this truly worthwhile and transformative project — one that will quite literally redefine Waterbury and the entire Naugatuck River Valley.

Sincerely Yours

Clifford W Burrell

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

RE: TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City Waterbury's TIGERVI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project.

As a family business owner and lifelong Waterbury resident, with property directly adjacent to the improvements proposed by the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project, I support the project and applaud the city for its efforts to improve Waterbury's economic vitality, business climate and livability by providing a network of public parks, open space, multi-use trails, river access and transit enhancements and alternatives that will serve to connect Waterbury's neighborhoods, education facilities and employment centers to each other and to Waterbury's Train Station, the Downtown and to other river/rail communities of the Naugatuck River Valley.

The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project, if funded, will allow the city to continue its efforts to extend its Greenway and to make significant transportation infrastructure improvements that will generate opportunities for economic reinvestment as well as promote job creation and an overall improved quality of life – all of which will make Waterbury a better place in which to live and work, and even play.

As members of a family whose ties to Waterbury go back over 75 years, We strongly urge your favorable consideration of Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application, we have always believed that with vision Waterbury would return to the grand city it was and this appears to be just the boost that we need.

We have never lost faith in the resiliency of the City and we are behind this project 100%.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Calli, Michael Calli & Eileen Calli

Tour Calli, C



#### Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113 neil.pade@gmail.com

March 26, 2014

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

Re: Waterbury TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing this letter to convey the support of the Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board for the City of Waterbury's application for a TIGER grant for the Naugatuck River Greenway and Multi-Modal Downtown Connections project. The Advisory Board was established in 2009 and its members, who are appointed by the Governor and leaders of the Connecticut General Assembly, represent citizens throughout the state.

We commend the City of Waterbury for its commitment to this important project. While there are difficulties in designing and building new bike and pedestrian paths in any location, the challenges of building these faculties in a downtown area have resulted in very few urban trail systems in the state of Connecticut. This particular project, with multi-use paths, walking paths, bike lanes, and an improved street grid adjacent to the downtown and in the heart of an area that needs redevelopment, will result in significant economic impacts. Not only will the area become more attractive to development, but also the project will connect low income individuals in near-in City neighborhoods to the economy, enabling them to access jobs and opportunity.

The Board finds the proposed project supports many of the Advisory Board's goals, including integrating and connecting pedestrian and bicycle systems with roads and transit, encouraging bicycle and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and employment centers, and implementing the state's Complete Streets Law. Further, this project, and the City of Waterbury's commitment to a significant local match towards the total project cost, is in alignment with our Board's recommendation that municipalities fund complete streets projects.



### Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113 neil.pade@gmail.com

It is without reservation that the Board supports the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application.

Sincerely

Neil S. Pade, AICP

Chairman



April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Foundation, I am pleased to lend my full support to the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application, *Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence*. The improvements related to this project will greatly improve the quality of life in Waterbury and make the downtown a more desirable place to be.

Founded in 1923 as the Waterbury Foundation, the Connecticut Community Foundation was the first community foundation in the state. Today, our service area covers 21 towns in Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills. We administer more than 380 charitable funds and private foundations established by local donors, which enables us to provide grants and services to nonprofit and government organizations, as well as scholarships to students. Located across the street from City Hall in downtown Waterbury, we have been a staunch supporter of downtown development efforts and are excited about the opportunities for growth that the City's TIGER project offers.

The Connecticut Community Foundation's grants emphasize several priorities, including healthy residents and healthy communities; participation in arts and culture; resident engagement and leadership; and, environmental awareness and action. I believe Waterbury's project will have a large, positive impact on all of these issues that we consider priorities. The greenway and newly constructed complete streets will enable many residents to enjoy outdoor recreational activities, open space and fresh air. The project will promote ecological awareness and a sense of stewardship towards the river and surrounding environment. Also, the transportation improvements will make the downtown more easily accessible, which will allow residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the area and experience the many arts and cultural opportunities that are available. This aspect of the project will greatly improve the lives of those individuals living in low-income neighborhoods surrounding the downtown, a population that we have strived to help.

I am excited about the quality of life improvements that will be made possible by Waterbury's TIGER project. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Respectfully,

Paula Van Ness

President & CEO



## Department of Economic and Community Development



April 15, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application to support the development of the Naugatuck River Greenway, a critical infrastructure and open space project with regional economic development significance.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy has made the revitalization of Connecticut's city's one of the hallmarks of our State's economic development strategy. Across the state, new mixed-use and transit-oriented development projects are underway to bring new residents and businesses back to our downtowns, and the Greenway represents an historic opportunity to accelerate Waterbury's revitalization as a live/work/play community.

Across the country and across our state, we have seen numerous examples of the power of pedestrian- and bike-friendly open space to transform built-out urban industrial environments into more liveable, multi-use communities. The Naugatuck River Greenway will help catalyze the redevelopment of not only Waterbury, which is home to numerous brownfield properties left behind as part of Waterbury's proud industrial heritage, but the entire Naugatuck River Valley. Indeed, the Obama Administration recognized the potential impact of the Naugatuck River Greenway by including it in Interior Secretary Salazar's list of the top 100 outdoor projects in the 2011 Department of the Interior report, "America's Great Outdoors: 50 State Report."

The Malloy Administration believes that the Naugatuck River Greenway will have a transformative effect on our State, and help attract private investment and jobs to Waterbury and its surrounding metropolitan area.

We look forward to working with the Department of Transportation on this important project.

Sincerely,

Commissioner

therine H. Smith

Cc: Governor Dannel P. Malloy Waterbury Mayor Neil O'Leary

Connecticut Transportation Commissioner James P. Redeker

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

www.ct.gov/deep

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

April 8, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) enthusiastically supports the City of Waterbury's application for funds from the USDOT TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant for its Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) and connecting Freight Street Corridor project in downtown Waterbury, Connecticut. If awarded, the TIGER grant would facilitate the completion of a key piece of the NRG, which extends 44 miles along the river from Torrington to Derby, Connecticut.

Over the last decade, the Naugatuck River has undergone a rebirth, with millions of dollars invested to improve water quality, restore habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. DEEP's efforts have focused on upgrading sewage treatment plants along its course (including a \$100 million project in Waterbury), removing or modifying dams and other structures, and providing enhanced public access. Beyond traditional riverwalks and fishing access, DEEP has aggressively pursued a brownfields redevelopment strategy to promote remediation of industrial sites along the river and bring new business to the region that would provide economic and quality of life benefits to the community. The CT Greenways Council designated the NRG as an official Connecticut Greenway in 2001 and, more recently, the Naugatuck River was designated an important *Blueway* as part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative. This project would provide the first public access to the Naugatuck River in Waterbury.

The project supports DEEP's goals of reducing auto emissions by providing alternative transportation options for the City of Waterbury. A key element of the proposal is the transformation of Freight Street into a complete street that has robust bicycle and pedestrian facilities to connect downtown Waterbury with the greenway trail along the river. The complete street treatment would also wrap around Meadow Street and connect to the train station, which is currently being overhauled. As part of the Freight Street improvement, a new north-south connector street would encourage development types compatible with the adjacent, mixed use downtown. Finally, a pedestrian bridge connecting Library Park, the train station, and the NRG would provide the most direct access to the future greenway over the active railroad tracks. This pedestrian bridge would connect parkland, and provide an up and over connection for additional future train station platforms. In these ways, the project would have a transformative effect on the city.

By awarding the City of Waterbury this grant, the Department of Transportation would greatly support ongoing efforts and investments, connect the public with the natural world, foster healthy lifestyles, enhance economic development, and offer transportation alternatives.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Klee Commissioner

Connecticut Department of

**Energy and Environmental Protection** 

Cc: Mayor Neil O'Leary, Mayor of Waterbury Kevin Del Gobbo, Chief of Staff to Mayor O'Leary Tom Tyler, CT DEEP Bill Hyatt, CT DEEP



## Connecticut Greenways Council

c/o CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 424-3578
www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/

4.8.2014

Bruce Donald President, Farmington Valley Trails Council *Chairman* 

Jason Vincent Norwich Community Development Corp. Vice-Chairman

Tracy Gionfriddo Northeast Utilities Acting Secretary

Laurie Giannotti

Ex-Officio

CT Dept. of Energy &

Environmental Protection

Katherine Rattan *Ex-Officio* CT Dept. of Transportation

Lois Bruinooge Last Green Valley

Jan Collins CT Horse Council

Bob Dickinson Appalachian Mtn. Club

Lisa Fernandez
President, Farmington
Canal Rail toTrail Assoc.

David Gumbart Nature Conservancy

Joe Hickey CT Forest & Parks

Steven Mitchell Board of Directors East Coast Greenway

William D. O'Neill East Coast Greenway Past Chairman Anthony Foxx Secretary U.S. Dept. of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Connecticut Greenways Council (CGC) is proud to support the City of Waterbury, Connecticut in their application for a 2014 USDOT TIGER Grant for the development of a 2.5-mile multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trail along the shoreline of the Naugatuck River (Phase I of the 4.5-mile Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway extension).

This is a critical connective piece of the planned 44-mile trail system running from Torrington to Derby. By providing linkage to the city center, a proposed integral park, and the Naugatuck River, this project allows both cyclists and pedestrians to radiate out of and into the City of Waterbury providing enhanced tourism, economic development, commutation, alternative transportation and a healthy outdoor amenity. These very real outcomes will provide the City with a renaissance, revitalizing downtown and waterfront areas and adding perceptibly to the vibrancy of the community.

The CGC is charged with advising and assisting in the coordination of state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in voluntarily planning and implementing a system of greenways in Connecticut. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life and well being of our residents through a statewide Greenways system that provides quality multi-use trails, water trails (blue ways), and open spaces that meet statewide needs. These needs include leisure and recreation, off-road linkages, and alternative transportation and education on behalf of the diverse user groups of the community. Greenways are recognized as a cost-effective infrastructure mode contributes to the economic vitality of the State.

The Naugatuck River Greenway was made a Designated Greenway by the CGC in 2001 and is listed in the State Plan of Conservation and Development. We urge you to fund this important project not just for Waterbury but for the entire Naugatuck Valley region.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Donald

Chairman, CT Greenways Council

860.202.3926

rbd1414@hotmail.com



Fascia's Chocolates 44 Chase River Rd Waterbury, CT 06704

Phone: 203.753.0515

Fax: 203.573.0835

Email: info@fasciaschocolates.com

April 17, 2014

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

**Dear Secretary Foxx:** 

Fascia's Chocolates has been the City of Waterbury's local Chocolatier since 1964. Since our start in the family home 50 years ago, we've moved several times within the City to meet the needs of our customers. Six months ago, Fascia's finally purchased a building to serve as our permanent home at 44 Chase River Road, adjacent to the proposed location of the Naugatuck River Greenway. While conducting our property search, we had other opportunities outside of the City but chose this location, in part, because of the potential of having the Greenway expand in this area.

Fascia's Chocolates views the construction of the Greenway as an integral part of the redevelopment of the City as it will embrace one of its most prominent and underutilized assets, The Naugatuck River. Fascia's completely supports the City's application for the TIGER VI project and urges that it be considered for funding. While the focus of this grant application will be on the central core of the City and its transportation networks, we trust that the momentum and physical construction of that portion would be a catalyst for the remaining sections of the trail.

In addition to gourmet chocolates, we make authentic gelato and sorbet and have created a destination site by providing tours and events at our facility. We are now drawing people from far beyond the local area and the physical location of our operation will encourage use of the Greenway and support our own business and, in turn, the economic impact on local businesses.

As lifelong members of the community, we are committed to the rejuvenation of the City of Waterbury and feel compelled to write to you in support of this application.

Sincerely,

Carmen Romeo

President



#### & The Greenway Advisory Committee

April 15, 2014

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

Re: Letter of Support for Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application

**Dear Secretary Foxx:** 

The members of the Greenway Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Naugatuck River Greenway wish to express our support of Waterbury's TIGER VI discretionary grant application for the **W**aterbury **A**ctive **T**ransportation and **E**conomic **R**esurgence project.

The award of a TIGER grant would extend Phase One of the Waterbury Greenway, already funded and in the design process, and extend it from its' current length of 2.1 miles to a 7.4 mile riverfront, multi-use paved trail would serve as the major urban link in a larger 44 mile long regional greenway system that is being planned/constructed along the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby. Waterbury's Greenway is included in the City's Plan of Conservation and Development and is a major part of a designated State of Connecticut Greenway. It has been identified in the Connecticut State Recreational Trail Plan as a "greenway of state-wide significance".

Further, Waterbury's proposed TIGER VI project will connect and enhance ongoing local and state transportation and transit improvements, which will promote alternative modes of transportation and improve regional and local traffic accessibility. Collectively, these improvements will allow for job creation and help rebuild Waterbury's corridor neighborhoods and downtown into vibrant, livable communities in which to live, work and play.

The Greenway Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Waterbury Greenway are proud to lend our collective support to Waterbury's TIGER Grant application and hope you will consider the significant positive impact the award would have on the City and the region.

Sincerely,

Ronald Napoli, Sr.

ll a Mopoli

Chairman, GAC

David Bozzutø

President, NRQ





March 26, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI project and urge that it be considered for funding. The Greater Waterbury YMCA strongly supports this application and has been a supporter of the project since it began several years ago. Serving on the City's Greenway Advisory Commission and other various city steering committees relating to downtown planning and redevelopment, the YMCA has also partnered with the City on health and childhood obesity prevention initiatives. Most recently, Waterbury was one of three cities in the nation to win a *Childhood Obesity Prevention Award* from the U.S. Conference of Mayors in recognition of the City's innovative efforts to fight childhood obesity. The YMCA will be partnering with the City to administer a program aimed at fostering a love of exercise amongst City youth.

As a partner with the City on so many projects and initiatives, we understand fully the challenges the City of Waterbury faces. We also know that Waterbury is taking bold steps to rebuild its economy and transition into a City with a sustainable economy and livable neighborhoods. The biggest step is building the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway. Like the City of Chattanooga, who decades ago took dramatic steps to reverse its image and future, so too Waterbury is turning to its riverfront and its transportation infrastructure to jump start economic recovery. Waterbury's multi-modal greenway will become the new multi-modal transportation spine of the City and Valley's river/rail corridor, reconnecting neighborhoods to each other and to the City's newly-renovated downtown Train Station, government center and central business district. It will link neighborhood brownfields targeted for sustainable redevelopment and local job generation. It will also connect with new multi-modal streets surrounding the Train Station leading into the heart of the downtown.

Most importantly, on a human scale, this project is about making Waterbury a truly livable city providing residents the physical infrastructure to walk and bike where none exists; making it easier for residents without cars to get to their train station; making the train station area appealing, safe and pedestrian-friendly; understanding that transportation infrastructure shapes a community's health and quality of life.

The YMCA is pleased to show our support for this important project and we ask that you give Waterbury's application your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim O'Rourke Executive Director April 3, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As principal of Washington Avenue Business Park, LLC, I am pleased to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application that would provide funding for Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway and coordinated active transportation improvements on connector streets to the City's Train Station. This is a project that will have a tremendous economic development impact on the City's downtown, as it will incentivize redevelopment of approximately sixty acres of underutilized land immediately surrounding the Train Station to the west, thus effectively doubling the size of the downtown and making the Train Station the center of downtown living.

Washington Avenue Business Park is a 17.5 acre riverfront site within ½ mile of the City's Train Station, with the western edge of the property extending towards the intersection of Bank and West Liberty Streets, within easy walking distance of the Train Station. With TIGER VI funding, a riverfront section of the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway will be constructed through my property, proceeding along the riverfront to connect to development around the Train Station and to Freight Street. In addition, active transportation improvements to Meadow Street will be advantageous to the commercial area south of the Train Station and to the distressed South End neighborhood in which my property is located.

The State of Connecticut has granted the City of Waterbury a total of \$2,091,000 million in State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Grant and Loan Program funds for demolition and remediation of Washington Avenue Business Park. I look forward to the day when the full potential of this beautiful 17.5 acre riverfront site will be realized and I urge you fund the City of Waterbury's application.

Yours Truly,

Donald R. Heye

Principal

135 East Liberty St & Waterbury, CT 06706 & Tel: 203-754-6172 & Fax: 203-596-8009 Thehispaniccoalition.org

April 7, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc., I am proud to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application, Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence. The implementation of this project would significantly improve the quality of life for our clients, many of which comprise a large Environmental Justice population in Waterbury's South End.

The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that has been dedicated to the advancement of the Hispanic community through social services and advocacy since 1988. Currently, we offer a number of programs that encompass a wide variety of activities, including, after-school programming; case management services; intensive respite care; and, referral services. Our location in the heart of the South End enables us to play an active role in the lives of many residents in this largely distressed area of Waterbury.

The South End of Waterbury has suffered from extreme poverty and blight for many years. However, the area is beginning to experience a revival with the launching of Loyola Development Corporation's major housing initiative and Waterbury Development Corporation's success in securing state and federal funds to assess and remediate brownfields throughout the area. Waterbury's TIGER project will complement these projects by dramatically altering the landscape of the South End for the better.

For decades, residents of the South End have been isolated from the river that sits in their backyard. They have had limited opportunities to enjoy public recreation, health and fitness activities. Also, the downtown, train station and other neighborhoods are not as easily accessible as many would like. Waterbury's project will change these unfortunate circumstances. A paved multi-use greenway trail, along with preserved open space will open the river to public access, as well as improve the air quality and riparian habitat along the river. The construction of complete streets adjacent to the greenway and train station will improve the connection between the South End and downtown. Since many of the residents of the South End rely on public transportation, this project will make it easier and safer for them to access trains and buses, including the CT fastrak bus service that will soon be offered between the Waterbury train station and Hartford.

The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc. is excited about the many possibilities that lie ahead due to Waterbury's TIGER project. Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Respectfully,

President

Victor Lopez, J

The Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury, Inc.

Illinois Tool Works Inc. Corporate Headquarters 3600 West Lake Avenue Glenview, IL 60026-1215 Telephone 847,724,7500



April 18, 2014

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

Re: TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW) is a large, multifaceted company that produces highly engineered components, products and systems in the United States and around the globe.

ITW understands and values the importance of community, quality of life issues, and of being a good corporate citizen. For these reasons, we support the City of Waterbury and its ongoing efforts to improve its economic vitality, business climate and livability.

The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project is an innovative and comprehensive riverfront, transportation and revitalization effort. When complete, it should stimulate economic growth, promote job creation and serve to connect Waterbury's neighborhoods, education facilities, employment centers, the City's Train Station, its Downtown, and to other river/rail communities along the Naugatuck River. It will provide its residents and those of neighboring communities with access to transit alternatives, employment opportunities, educational facilities and enhanced recreational experiences.

Waterbury is looking forward and is aggressively investing in its downtown area, remediating brownfields, enhancing transportation and public infrastructure and working to improve its quality of life. TIGER VI funds will support substantially these transformative efforts – efforts that will benefit not only the City of Waterbury, but all of the communities along the Naugatuck River Valley.

This project is an essential step to the economic revitalization of Waterbury, and the Naugatuck River Valley region. I request formally and sincerely that you consider favorably Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project.

Respectfully,

Rodney L. Jones

Director of Real Estate





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

April 22, 2014

Dear Secretary Foxx:

King Industries Inc. (King) is pleased to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application seeking funding for Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway and Multi-Modal Downtown Connections. The implementation of this project would result in the construction of the downtown section of a regional multi- use riverfront trail with connections to the City's Train Station (under renovation) along with construction of new Complete Streets around the Station that would provide the needed infrastructure for Transit Orientated Development (TOD) redevelopment.

King Industries is currently located in Norwalk Connecticut along the Norwalk River. To date King Industries has developed and landscaped a greenway buffer area between its manufacturing facilities and the river front. The greenway area provides a well landscaped buffer to both residential and office riverfront property owners while also serving as a security perimeter as well. King Industries plans to develop a similar greenway area along its portion of Waterbury Industrial Commons (WIC) property that is directly adjacent to the Naugatuck River. The planned greenway along King Industries' property would allow riverfront access for both pedestrian and bicycle traffic while providing an opportunity for the local population to learn about advanced chemical manufacturing.

King is currently in the process of performing due diligence to acquire a ten (10) acre parcel of land located at 1917 Thomaston Avenue in Waterbury, a portion of the former Chase Brass & Copper Rolling Mill Facility. This Brownfield site has undergone years of demolition, assessment and remediation to create an area ripe for economic redevelopment. The location of the site is adjacent to part of the future Greenway that will be connected to the City's Downtown as well as municipalities to the north and south. King's ultimate plan is to invest nearly \$50 million dollars into construction to create a new facility for a Waterbury operation.

The aforementioned facility under planning will be located along the route of the future Naugatuck River Greenway thus providing opportunities for King to partner with the City for a possible trail head as well as a point of interest for trail users detailing our operation.

We overwhelmingly support the City's application for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Application.

Sincerely,

King Industries, Inc.



### Loyola Development Corporation 83 Bank Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Waterbury, Connecticut 06702 (203) 346-0999

www.loyoladevelopment.org

April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for **The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (WATER) Project**. The TIGER grant will complete the funding package for this regionally significant project that will redefine the City of Waterbury, its downtown and its corridor neighborhoods at a time when our city and region desperately need investment.

The goal of the Loyola Development Corporation is to prevent and eliminate neighborhood deterioration and to promote the general social welfare of the community through the construction, rehabilitation ownership or operation of housing. Currently, our efforts in affordable housing and community development are concentrated in the "South End" neighborhood, within ½-mile walking distance of the City's downtown. The South End neighborhood is an Environmental Justice community with a preponderance of the City's abandoned brownfield sites. It suffers from extreme poverty, crumbling infrastructure and neighborhood blight. There is not only a lack of affordable housing options in the South End, but residents who do reside here lack adequate recreational opportunities. Additionally, over 20% of the neighborhood residents do not own an automobile, therefore, there is a significant lack adequate modes of transportation for our residents and for those who wish to live and/or work in this community.

Construction of the City's **WATER** project would make a tremendous difference in the lives of Waterbury residents. The project's Naugatuck River Greenway component runs along the river right through the heart of the South End community. Construction of the greenway would provide access to a riverfront that residents have never experienced; would incentive redevelopment of adjacent brownfields that scar our neighborhood; would provide a safe, means of travel to other neighborhoods, the Train Station, new bus service and the downtown; and, would be a very large step in addressing environmental injustices that have plagued the South End for generations.

The Loyola Development Corporation is presently developing 33 units of affordable rental housing directly across the street from the proposed greenway. Upon completion, the project will be identified as Liberty Commons. The project will consist of two buildings containing a total of 33 units of affordable rental housing with 7 of those units designated for supportive housing which will target those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. There will be 15 two bedroom units, and 18 three bedroom units. All residential units will be developed for purposes of affordable housing for households with annual incomes below 50% of the Area Medium Income.

It is estimated that the project will house approximately 126 individuals. Due to the affordable housing nature of the development, this development will create a draw from the surrounding community which will experience a positive impact with the surrounding community significantly benefiting from our development.



### Loyola Development Corporation 83 Bank Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Waterbury, Connecticut 06702 (203) 346-0999

www.loyoladevelopment.org

This project is necessary and much needed within the City of Waterbury for various significant reasons. The first and foremost reason that this project is needed due to the impact it will have on the South End community which primarily consists of low-income residents. Housing conditions are below average and an infusion of new housing is critical for long term sustainability. In working with the City of Waterbury Housing Authority, we have secured 20 rental subsidy/ project based vouchers to support the project so that low income families, and those at risk of homelessness will be able to live in a safe, clean, and affordable rental unit.

The South End had unfortunately become a poverty stricken area, with crumbling infrastructure and urban blight. The area in and around the South End is filled with substandard affordable housing units, abandoned industrial facilities, and a high number of vacant, boarded up, residential units. The South End is a neighborhood in need of a new identity. Loyola Development Corporation has a vision to stabilize this neighborhood and transform it into a healthy and sustainable community. In the year to come, Loyola will begin transforming the South End into a sustainable community through the implementation of a multi-phase comprehensive revitalization strategy that will help to redefine the area, substantially impacting the social, environmental, and economic status of the neighborhood and its residents. As a community development corporation, Loyola Development can add structure to the local market place and stability to the social network.

The greatest social improvement that Loyola Development Corp. and our partners at the Carabetta Corporation can bestow on the community would be in the development of new, quality affordable housing units with related amenities. Our vision and overall plan for this development is well supported by the City of Waterbury Mayor's Office, local State Representative's, and others and it coincides with the overall City Revitalization Plan.

It is the general opinion that the Loyola development and the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (WATER) Project will be the catalyst to spur development along the South Main Street corridor and will promote overall economic development for the City. It will promote job opportunities to the local community, and after construction it will encourage economic growth.

I sincerely endorse the City of Waterbury's TIGER application, and I encourage you to consider funding of a project where transportation would mean so much for the lives of people who have so little.

Yours Truly,

Nancy M. MacMillan Executive Director

**Executive Director** 

Nancy@LoyolaDevelopment.org



April 15, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Chief Executive Officer of Main Street Waterbury, I strongly support the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application, *Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence*. The implementation of this project is essential to continuing the momentum of revitalization that currently exists in Waterbury.

Main Street Waterbury is a downtown management and revitalization program that operates in the context of historic preservation. Through improving the physical appearance of downtown Waterbury, promoting its architectural and cultural assets, organizing volunteer initiatives, sponsoring events and fostering public/private partnerships, Main Street Waterbury strives to economically rejuvenate Waterbury's downtown district without sacrificing its character or heritage. Our vision for downtown Waterbury is that of a vibrant, diverse and pedestrian-friendly city center- a true regional destination for everyone. The completion of Waterbury's project, which includes the construction of complete streets and the establishment of a transportation center as a focal point of the downtown, will greatly support the realization of this vision.

I truly believe that Waterbury is on the verge of achieving its full potential as a thriving city. Its TIGER project complements several other important projects that are currently underway or proposed. I am most excited about the synergy that will be created between the proposed DowntownNEXT project and the TIGER project. Main Street Waterbury has partnered with the City of Waterbury to create DowntownNEXT, a revitalization plan that identifies properties and streetscapes in the downtown area that are in need of improvement. We have been working very closely with the State of Connecticut to identify possible funding sources for this transformative project, valued at approximately \$20 million. The proposed improvements included in both of these projects will brand Waterbury's downtown as a modern walkable, livable and flourishing community.

I am enthusiastic about the many development opportunities that lie ahead due to Waterbury's TIGER project. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Respectfully,

CEO

Main Street Waterbury



### **United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION 15 State Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3572

March 21, 2014

Ms. Kathleen McNamara Office of the Mayor 235 Grand Street Waterbury, CT 06702

Dear Kathy:

Since transitioning out of my role as Chair of the Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee, I'd like to share my thoughts on the progress we are making. In particular, I'm struck by the critical linkage role that Waterbury plays as the region approaches a tipping point for greenway implementation.

With recent ribbon-cuttings in Derby and Naugatuck, on-going work in Ansonia, Seymour, Watertown, Thomaston and Torrington, Waterbury is the center of gravity; it is pulling segments toward the critical mass in the middle.

In my 23 years with the National Park Service working with more than 50 local and regional trails and greenways, I have seen repeatedly the value of strategically phased development. The low-hanging fruit gets the project started and shows what is envisioned, even if only as short segments. The next phase requires longer planning and funding cycles and leads to more dramatic ribbon-cuttings.

On the Naugatuck, Waterbury is essential to the next phase as a large-scale game-changing project. The urban, complicated engineering challenges are clearly supported by the on-going ribbon-cuttings up- and downstream. And as Waterbury moves toward construction, adjacent missing links will rise in priority to finish the last phase of the greenway. The sum becomes much greater than the parts.

I greatly appreciate the commitment and drive being shown by the City of Waterbury and the Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. I am confident that this greenway will not only succeed, but trigger a regional renaissance as communities are once again connected by – and to – the Naugatuck River.

Sincerely.

John Monroe

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program Director of Connecticut and Rhode Island Projects

# NAUGATUCK RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, Inc. P.O. Box 122 Middlebury, CT 06762

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

April 17, 2014

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of the Naugatuck River Watershed Association, Inc., the Naugatuck-Pomperaug Trout Unlimited, the Northwestern CT Trout Unlimited and the Boy Scout Troop 140 to express our support for the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application.

#### 95 Years of Work Restoring the Naugatuck River

This year four non-profit conservation organizations, which have been working to protect, restore and enhance the Naugatuck River, its tributaries and riparian habitat are celebrating anniversaries of those efforts: 30<sup>th</sup>-Naugatuck Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited, a.k.a. Naugatuck-Pomperaug Chapter, 23<sup>rd</sup>-Boy Scouts of America Troop 140, 22nd-Northwestern Chapter Trout Unlimited and 20<sup>th</sup> the Naugatuck River Watershed Association, Inc.

Collectively, they have sponsored more than 150 restoration projects in most of the eleven Naugatuck River towns. Several thousand volunteer conservationists from all walks of life completed these projects. In recent years other organizations joined in the restoration, enhancement and promotion of the river through greenways, riverside parks, river races, festivals, wildlife videos and a web sites dedicated to the Naugatuck River System.

Now that one of the worst polluted rivers in the country has been restored and its fish and wildlife abound, it's time provide access to the river via Roadways, Walkways and Greenways so people can enjoy the recreational, educational benefits and the beauty of its flora and fauna that this natural treasure of 40 miles of winding, picturesque river which embraces 80 miles of riverbanks. "A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure"-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Signed

Robert S. Gregorski

President Naugatuck River Watershed Association, Inc.

323 Watertown Road Middlebury, CT 06762

203-758-9166

spert I Sugorski

### NAUGATUCK RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, Inc P.O. Box 122 Middlebury, CT 06762

#### 95 Years of Work Restoring the Naugatuck River

This year four non-profit conservation organizations, which have been working to protect, restore and enhance the Naugatuck River, its tributaries and riparian habitat are celebrating anniversaries of those efforts: 30<sup>th</sup>-Naugatuck Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited, a.k.a. Naugatuck-Pomperaug Chapter, 23<sup>rd</sup>-Boy Scouts of America Troop 140, 22nd-Northwestern Chapter Trout Unlimited and 20<sup>th</sup> the Naugatuck River Watershed Association, Inc.

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Now that one of the worst polluted rivers in the country has been restored and its fish and wildlife abound, it's time provide access to the river via Roadways, Walkways and Greenways so people can enjoy the recreational, educational benefits and the beauty of its flora and fauna that this natural treasure of 40 miles of winding, picturesque river which embraces 80 miles of riverbanks. "A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure"-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

The Naugatuck River Watershed Association, Inc, the Naugatuck-Pomperaug Trout Unlimited, the Northwestern CT Trout Unlimited and the Boy Scout Troop 140 Oakville supports Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application.

Robert S. Gregorski- President -Naugatuck River Watershed Association, Inc.-bobflybox@sbcglobal.net

Steven Farnham-President -Naugatuck-Pomperaug Trout Unlimited safshelby@yahoo.com

Jim Fedorich – President -Northwestern CT Trout Unlimited

fedorich-james@sbcglobal.net

William Fitzpatrick - Leader -Boy Scout Troop 140 Oakville, CT william.fitzpatrick@sbcglobal.net

Signed

Robert S. Gregorski 323 Watertown Road Middlebury, CT 06762

203-758-9166

Kenneth E. Schaible Chairman James E. Ryan President



475 Howe Avenue Suite 202 Shelton, CT 06484

Tel: (203) 924-2521 Fax: (203) 924-0547

April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Naugatuck Valley Corridor/Economic Development District wishes to express our support for the City of Waterbury's application for a U. S. DOT TIGER grant to construct a significant portion of the Naugatuck River Greenway in the City and create new opportunities for economic growth in the Naugatuck Valley.

The five discrete elements of the proposal are all fully consistent with United States Economic Development Administration's approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and were recently added as a high priority to our Strategy following a thorough review by our Advisory Committee.

- The Naugatuck River Greenway Trail: Construction of phase 2 (of 3) of the City of Waterbury's
  portion of a planned 44-mile regional greenway trail through the Naugatuck River Valley,
  including several neighborhood connections to the river and preparation for a new riverfront
  park.
- Freight Street Reconstruction: Reconstruction of this deteriorated street in a formerly industrial corridor as a complete urban street that includes green infrastructure and a bicycle side path connecting the riverfront to the downtown.
- 3. **Jackson Street Reconstruction and Extension**: Reconstruction (3A) of the existing dead-end street and extension (3B) through Freight Street to West Main Street to begin a street and block network for the redevelopment of the district.
- 4. Library Park to Train Station to Riverfront Connector: Build a bridge from Library Park over Meadow Street and railroad tracks with ramps to the train station and riverfront park to improve access from the riverfront to the station and the downtown core.
- 5. Meadow Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements: Extending the Freight Street bicycle side path to the entrance of an improved train station waiting room and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connections to the downtown by adding bike lanes, narrowing roadways, expanding sidewalks and implementing cutting edge pedestrian safety technology at key intersections.

These elements will create and retain jobs, eliminate blight and decay, foster new private investment, contribute to neighborhood revitalization, and leverage significant public and private funds. This proposal reflects the spirit of our CEDS Strategy.

We understand from the staff at the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley that the portion of the Greenway proposed for funding is critical and will contribute to Waterbury's efforts to

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary April 21, 2014 Page Two

put brownfields back into productive economic use, create connections to the Metro-North Train Station that can support transit-oriented development, and provide a transportation network that accommodates all users whether on foot, bicycle, transit or motor vehicle. The project in our opinion is consistent with local, regional, and state objectives for Smart Growth in Connecticut.

Municipalities in the Naugatuck Valley are working to reconnect to the Naugatuck River. The now clean river has become an asset to these communities that improves the quality of life of residents and the potential for new investments and economic activity. Waterbury's proposal is fully consistent with this shared vision and interregional efforts to complete a 44-mile long Naugatuck River Greenway multi-use trail from Torrington to Derby.

We believe that a successful TIGER application in Waterbury will serve to benefit all communities along the Naugatuck River and facilitate continued progress in the establishment of the Naugatuck River Greenway and enhance the region as a place to live, work, and visit. The Naugatuck Valley Corridor/Economic Development District is pleased to provide our full support to Waterbury's application for TIGER funds.

Very truly yours,

James E. Ryan

President, Shelton Economic Development Corporation

**NVC District Office** 

JER:am





235 Grand Avenue \* New Heven, CT 06513-3277 \* 203.562.4514 \* fax 203.752.3210 \* www.nwnh.net

March 15, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

NeighborWorks New Horizons (NWNH) is pleased to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application seeking funding for the Naugatuck River Greenway multi-use trail and downtown Complete Streets construction and renovation project. The implementation of this project would result in the construction of the downtown section of a regional multi-use riverfront trail with connections to the City's Train Station (under renovation) along with construction of new Complete Streets around the Station that would provide the needed infrastructure for TOD redevelopment.

NWNH is a Connecticut-based housing nonprofit dedicated to developing affordable quality housing that builds healthy, vibrant, walkable communities. We are presently constructing 10 units of new housing with pedestrian-friendly streetscaping in the center of the downtown, a half block from the downtown Green and only two blocks from the TIGER project area. We are also planning to acquire and renovate an additional 60 units within easy walking distance of the Station.

This project is consistent with our vision for a high-quality livable and walkable downtown center that will help the City reaffirm its role as regional employment hub for the Naugatuck River Valley while making the transportation improvements that are a prerequisite for safe and convenient transit service along the Valley rail corridor. It also embodies our goals, in that the project rebuilds and reconnects the traditional corridor neighborhoods of Waterbury divided and disrupted by north-south Route 8 and east-west I-84 Mixmaster construction decades ago.

On a very practical level, we continually hear from residents that walking to the Train Station from their neighborhoods is not easy, that the streets are not pedestrian-friendly and that using public transit needs to be more convenient for them. With the anticipated arrival of Connecticut's Fastrak rapid bus transit system with new express bus service emanating from the Waterbury Train Station, it is more important than ever that Waterbury provide integrated multi-modal connections that build connectivity both within the city and region.

NWNH is committed to support this project and looks forward to actively partnering with the City as we work together to build a livable, sustainable City that functions as a regional hub for the Naugatuck River Valley.

Yours Truly.

Thomas Cruess Senior Project Manager



Northeast Utilities Service Company P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141-0270 (860) 728-4510 Fax (860) 728-4581 david.mchale@nu.com

David R. McHale Executive Vice President Chief Administrative Officer

April 10, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Northeast Utilities is pleased to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER Discretionary Grant application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence project.

We are a long standing corporate citizen of Waterbury operating an electric and gas business with significant investments in buildings, infrastructure and human resources. As we understand the grant, if awarded, would provide funding for coordinated active transportation improvements on connector streets to the City's train station. We understand this project is intended to have a tremendous economic development impact on the City's downtown, as it will incentivize redevelopment of approximately 60 acres of underutilized land immediately surrounding the train station to the west; effectively doubling the size of the downtown and making the train station the center of downtown living. It will also allow the completion of a Greenway project already in Phase One.

In the City of Waterbury's 2005 Plan of Conservation and development, Freight Street, which borders the train station to the north, was identified as "the last major redevelopment opportunity with the potential for a transformative impact on the city economy." NU views this multi-level project as beneficial for the City of Waterbury and the entire Naugatuck Valley River Corridor and region; the positive transformative impact it will have cannot be overstated. We strongly lend out support to Waterbury's application and hope you will consider the significant positive impact the award would have on this City and region.

Very truly yours,

1 Zur Parfour



March 13, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments wishes to express our support for the City of Waterbury's application for a USDOT TIGER Grant to construct a significant portion of the Naugatuck River Greenway in the City and create new opportunities for economic growth in the Naugatuck Valley.

Waterbury's proposal to construct the Greenway through the center of the City and under the I-84 / Route 8 Interchange will serve to transform and revitalize the underutilized Freight Street section of the City. We understand from the staff at the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley that the portion of the Greenway proposed for funding is critical to Waterbury's efforts to put brownfields back into productive economic use, create connections to the Metro-North Train Station that can support transit oriented development, and provide a transportation network that accommodates all users whether on foot, bicycle, transit, or motor vehicle.

Municipalities in the Naugatuck Valley are working to reconnect to the Naugatuck River. The now clean river has become an asset to these communities that improves the quality of life of residents and the potential for new investments and economic activity. Waterbury's proposal is highly consistent with this shared vision and inter-regional efforts to complete a 44-mile long Naugatuck River Greenway multi-use trail from Torrington to Derby.

We believe that a successful TIGER application in Waterbury will serve to benefit all communities along the Naugatuck River and facilitate continued progress in the establishment the Naugatuck River Greenway. The NHCOG is pleased to provide our full support to Waterbury's application for TIGER funds.

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Sincerely,

Donald S. Stein

Chairman and First Selectman of Barkhamsted

Dould S 86

cc: NHCOG Members, Area State Legislators, U.S. Representatives, and U.S. Senators

April 16, 2014

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

Re: TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), made up of fortyone municipalities in northwest Connecticut, fully supports the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project.

The NRWIB is responsible for promoting, and delivering, job training services as a means to assist eligible individuals in finding and qualifying for meaningful employment. Additionally, the NRWIB works to help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete and succeed in business.

Most importantly, the mission of the NRWIB is complementary to the goals of the TIGER program in that the TIGER project must result in economic development, job creation and practicable opportunities, particularly for low-income workers or for people in Economically Distressed Areas (which Waterbury is).

It is the strong belief that the transportation infrastructure improvements envisioned by the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project will generate opportunities for economic reinvestment as well as promote significant job creation. Additionally, the project will provide much needed access to new employment opportunities, educational facilities and recreational experiences, as well as enhancing connections to Waterbury's Train Station, the Downtown, and to other river/rail communities of the Naugatuck River Valley.

This project is an essential step to economic revitalization of Waterbury, and the **Naugatuck River** Valley region and will be a vehicle for providing jobs and improving the lives of the people throughout our region.

The NRWIB strongly encourage your favorable consideration of Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project.

Please contact me at your convenience if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Catherine N. Awwad
Executive Director



April 3, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As CEO of MacDermid Inc., I am pleased to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI project *Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence*. This is a project that will have a tremendous economic development impact on the City and the region, as it will improve transportation connections between the downtown, the Train Station and corridor neighborhoods, while also incentivizing redevelopment of approximately sixty acres of underutilized land adjacent to the Waterbury Train Station.

MacDermid is a leading global provider of high value-added specialty chemicals and specialty services, serving the metals, plastics finishing, electronics, oil production and drilling, and graphic arts markets. Established in Waterbury in 1922, our Research and Technical Center is still located at 227 Freight Street, although we have grown to employ over 2,000 people in over 24 countries. Our corporate philosophy stresses the balance of corporate growth and success with accepted ecologic and social considerations. To that end, we are proud to support and work with the City of Waterbury as it moves forwards with its plans to improve the City's downtown transportation infrastructure in a way that will provide better and more complete access to public transit while connecting the public to its riverfront once again.

MacDermid has long been a supporter of the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway project. With our facility located directly alongside the Naugatuck River and Freight Street, we understand the transformative impact that the project will have on the City's economy. In the late 1990s we set aside \$1million of our funds with United Way of Greater Waterbury to be used for projects with environmental benefit to the City. In 2008 we were happy to support allocating \$235,000 of these funds towards the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway Routing and Feasibility Study. More recently, we have also supported the allocation of an additional \$500,000

of these funds towards the design of what is now the City's TIGER VI project, a project we feel makes all the needed active transportation connections that will grow the downtown and the Train Station area.

I urge that you consider this project favorably. I know this project will have a truly transformative impact upon the City and the region.

Yours Truly,

Daniel H. Leever

**CEO** 

# Police Activity League of Waterbury, Inc.



# C/O Waterbury Police Department 255 East Main Street Waterbury CT 06702



Phone 1-203-346-3921

April 18, 2014

Fax 1-203-574-8334

PAL Staffing Lieutenant Robert Cizauskas PAL Supervisor

Officer Christopher Amatruda PAL Activity Coordinator

Officer Franklin Santopietro PAL Activity Coordinator

Officer David Vilardo PAL Activity Coordinator

Officer Mary Jane Robinson Special Olympics Coordinator

PAL Officers
Deputy Chief Fernando Spagnolo
President

Chief Vernon L. Riddick Jr. Vice President

Acting Deputy Chief Chris Corbett Treasurer

Lieutenant Scott Stevenson Secretary

#### Board of Directors

Steven Castaldi

mathan Albert

(Ret) Asst Deputy Chief Patrick Ridenhour
Acting Asst. Deputy Chief William Covel
Captain Edward Daponte
Lieutenant Steven Gilmore
Officer Querino Maia
Officer Raymond Batista
Officer Michael Tripp
Raymond Brown
Fritz Blasius
Peter Baker
Fimothy Bergstrom
Leonard Mecca
Gary O'Connor
Attorney Gary Roosa

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Waterbury Police Activity League (PAL) is pleased to offer our strong support for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project. The requested funding will provide needed bicycle and pedestrian opportunities in our city, link neighborhoods to our riverfront, promote safety for all persons in our downtown and contribute greatly to the quality of life in our city.

PAL is a not for profit organization which promotes partnerships between youth, law enforcement and the community through educational, athletic and recreational programs designed to encourage team building and foster positive relationships. With over 3,000 youth members in the City, we are well-known in every neighborhood, especially since we regularly partner with community organizations on neighborhood initiatives and events, whether it is a community clean-up, improvement project or educational program. The community knows it can count on PAL.

We recognize that this project is important to the rebuilding of our City's economy, the revitalization of our downtown and the improvement of corridor neighborhoods suffering from blight and disinvestment. Many of our members live in such neighborhoods and they know what a helping hand means.

We ask that you consider funding this project and give Waterbury a helping hand. The Naugatuck River Greenway is near and dear to the youth of our community who lack safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities. On our part, as an organization devoted to community service, we can promise you that we will be there every step of the way helping ensure that our river greenway is safe, clean and maintained.

Sincerely,

Deputy Chief Fernando Spagnolo

PAL President



649 Bank Street Waterbury, CT 06708 203-574-4833

April 15, 2014

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

Re: TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are writing to express our strong support for City of Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence project. As property owners directly adjacent to the planned improvements, we recognize that this project holds amazing potential to improve the quality of life in our City and catalyze development and redevelopment within our City and region as a whole.

The Riverbank Christian Worship Center is located on the banks of the Naugatuck River diagonally across from the beginning of Jackson Street, which is proposed for reconstruction and extension. The new greenway trail would also be situated directly adjacent to our property. We look forward to this project and fully embrace it, recognizing that transportation connections are greatly needed in this area, which is largely commercial but disconnected from commercial centers to the north of the Train Station. There are no opportunities for active transportation, and although the Station is only a few blocks away, it may as well be miles for our residents who rely on walking or bicycling.

We support the City's efforts to solve our transportation challenges and build livable neighborhoods around our downtown. We ask that you consider this project favorably.

Yours Truly,

Steve Skystimas, Joe Mascia, Gary Ross, Dennis Cole, Jose Nieves, Joel Plourde Jeff Panasci, Josh Plourde: the leadership at Riverbank Christian Worship Center.

Location: 649 Bank Street, Waterbury, CT Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7080 Prospect, CT 06712-0080

Church Office 203-574-4833 Fax 203-574-4854



April 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Waterbury's **Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence** project, as I believe it will catalyze redevelopment and reconnect neighborhoods along Waterbury's Naugatuck River corridor.

StayWell Health Care, Inc. is located on South Main Street, in the heart of Waterbury's distressed South End neighborhood. We are directly adjacent to the future greenway trail, which will be located directly behind our property. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, we offer major healthcare and social services to the underserved populations of Waterbury and can therefore speak directly to the disinvestment that core city neighborhoods have experienced.

Once a home to a booming brass industry that made Waterbury the "Brass Capital of the World," the South End is burdened with an abundance of brownfields and a high level of poverty. With few parks and little to no access to the riverfront, the neighborhoods in this area are typical "Environmental Justice" communities. In the last decade, there have been improvements, with brownfields being demolished and remediated and housing nonprofits starting to redevelop old housing stock. However, a driving force that will propel these efforts forward is needed. The building of a riverfront pedestrian greenway trail is that force. Examples of the type of success such projects have yielded can be seen in communities all over the country. We want our community to have that opportunity. We know that a riverfront trail will transform our neighborhood, incentivize brownfield redevelopment and return livability to our community where so many of our residents do not have access to an automobile. We also know that it will be an important tool in our community's fight against childhood obesity.

We therefore ask that you give the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI application favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald Thompson President / CEO April 10, 2014

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

Re: Letter of Support for Waterbury's TIGER VI Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The United Way of Greater Waterbury wishes to express our support of Waterbury's TIGER discretionary grant application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence project. The United Way is a tangible demonstration of that support, having recently awarded \$500,000.00 from the MacDermid Quasi-Endowment Fund to the Friends of the Waterbury Greenway, Inc. These funds are being utilized, by the City, to partially fund the preliminary design drawings that have been submitted as supporting documentation of Waterbury's application presently before you for consideration.

If funded, continuation of the Greenway Trail, currently in Phase One, would be possible as well as infrastructure; rail and transportation improvements which will help transform communities along the Naugatuck River Valley by stimulating economic development and promoting job growth. The proposed project will provide access to opportunities for public recreation, health and fitness activities and will help to rebuild and reconnect Waterbury's neighborhoods – all of which will contribute significantly to making our community a vibrant, exciting place to live, work and play.

The United Way of Greater Waterbury works closely with the City of Waterbury to achieve shared goals. We applaud the City's ongoing efforts to make significant improvements to the lives of those living in the greater Waterbury area. On behalf of the UWGW, I encourage your favorable consideration of this truly worthwhile and transformative project. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristen Jacoby, MPH

President/Chief Professional Officer



William J. Pizzuto, Ph.D. Director, Waterbury Campus

April 16, 2014

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

### Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Campus Director of the University of Connecticut Waterbury campus, I am pleased to offer my strong support of the City of Waterbury's TIGER grant application, *Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence*. The improvements related to this project will transform downtown Waterbury into a livable, walkable and vibrant neighborhood, making it much more attractive to students.

UConn Waterbury serves over 1,000 students annually. In its sixty years of operation, it has opened the doors to educational access and excellence to thousands of Connecticut residents, many of whom have distinguished themselves in the field of community service, business, education, law and politics. Over a decade ago, the campus moved to a modern, state-of-the-art facility in the heart of downtown Waterbury.

Since moving to East Main Street in the heart of downtown, UConn Waterbury staff members have worked closely with local, state and federal government officials as well as those from the business community in an effort to create economic development opportunities. These efforts have led to new businesses and housing in the downtown area. Most recently, the Waterbury Development Corporation secured funds to renovate the Rectory Building, which sits directly across the street from the campus, into a mixed-use space with classrooms on the upper levels and a Starbucks on the ground floor. For years, we have made a concerted effort at UConn Waterbury to entice students to explore the downtown district and become stakeholders in this neighborhood. While, we have struggled at times, I believe there are several exciting projects on the horizon that will help make our vision a reality.

I truly believe that Waterbury's TIGER project improvements will make downtown much more attractive to UConn students. The construction of complete streets and the greenway, better access to the train station and the possibility of new development, including housing units, will draw students away from campus before and after they attend classes.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

99 East Main St.

Waterbury, Connecticut 06702

Telephone: (203) 236-9818 Facsimile: (203) 236-9820

e-mail: william.j.pizzuto@uconn.edu web: www.waterbury.uconn.edu I envision students walking or biking a few blocks to the newly constructed greenway to enjoy fresh air and open space; moving into new downtown apartments; and, visiting new businesses on Freight and West Main Streets.

This project has the potential to connect a number of improvements that have occurred over the last decade as well as several proposed projects, which will help make the downtown what it should be- a thriving city center.

I am excited about the many possibilities that lie ahead due to Waterbury's TIGER project. Thank you for your consideration of this vital project.

Respectfully,

William J. Pizzuto, Ph.D.

Campus Director



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH THE CITY OF WATERBURY

CONNECTICUT

March 21, 2014

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

#### Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Waterbury Board of Health is in full support of the City of Waterbury TIGER 2014 application under your consideration. This project has tremendous local and regional support as demonstrated through the number of supporters and partners. Most importantly, it is a transportation project that will help address decades of transportation ills and environmental injustice affecting the health and welfare of our diverse city.

Waterbury is a city with a proud history. Once the brass manufacturing capital of the world and a major supplier of armaments during WWII, the City is now left with the remnants of its past industrial heritage - abandoned factories, brownfields and underutilized land. Self-sustaining, viable neighborhoods lining the industrial riverfront now struggle, with the situation made worse by transportation choices of the 1960's when the construction of north-south Route 8 and east-west Interstate 84 created a jumble of raised highways that literally split neighborhoods apart. Today, we see corridor neighborhoods with little to no access to the river, few recreational opportunities, limited pedestrian- friendly transportation options, high asthma rates, and high incidences of childhood obesity.

Approximately ten years ago this City embarked upon a decisive course of action to change the future of our river corridor – to lay the infrastructure that would ultimately bring our neighborhoods back and provide for a better economic future. We started to plan a corridor greenway with a paved multi-use trail along our river. After much planning, public participation and the raising of \$6 million in local, state and federal funds, we will break ground on the first 2.2 miles of the project next year in the distressed "South End" of Waterbury. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2010, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez toured our greenway route personally and in 2011the Naugatuck River Greenway was recognized in the Department of Interior's *America's Great Outdoors: 50 State Report* as one of the best 100 outdoor projects in the nation.

Our TIGER project looks to build on our successes to date and bring the greenway into the heart of our city center, connecting neighborhoods to each other, to the train station and the downtown. Just this year, plans for the greenway though a polluted industrial site enabled the City to obtain \$2.2 million in funds to demolish and remediate a contaminated brownfield that has long plagued a distressed riverfront neighborhood. TIGER funds would build that greenway and provide opportunities for neighborhood children to walk and bike safely. In the heart of the downtown, TIGER funds would construct the new roads that would make brownfields around the City's Train Station ripe for sustainable redevelopment. TIGER funds would also improve streets around our Train Station already being renovated with state funds, to establish pedestrian and bicycle connections and make a generally blighted area safe and attractive to the public.

The TIGER project has the capability of making a real difference in the lives of our City's residents and charting a new future for our City. Our city and residents are working hard to make it happen. Just this year, Mayor Neil O'Leary accepted a first prize *Childhood Obesity Prevention Award* from the U.S. Conference of Mayors for Waterbury's Kids Marathon Program as recognition of our City's innovative efforts to fight childhood obesity. We know it's just the start. With federal TIGER assistance, we can build the multi-modal infrastructure that will jump start neighborhood revitalization, catalyze brownfield clean-ups and provide our residents with safe transportation options.

The Waterbury Board of Health encourages your full attention and consideration of our request, because we know that this project can truly change our City and change lives.

Respectfully,

Sam D'Ambrosi, Chairman Waterbury Board of Health

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Connecticut
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Parks and Golf Courses

March 21, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Waterbury Board of Park Commissioners fully supports the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI application and urges you to consider funding of our project. The project has a long history of public advocacy dating back to the early 1990s. The City's 7.4-mile multi-use paved greenway trail has already been started by the City with federal, state and local investments and is an integral link in the region's 44-mile Naugatuck River Greenway, connecting valley communities and train stations along our river/rail corridor. TIGER funding would allow the City to continue the multi-use, multi-modal greenway through the heart of the City with connections to the Train Station and downtown. With project funding, roads serving the Train Station and linking to the greenway would also be constructed or improved to provide expanded transportation options, thus creating an integrated network of connected multi-modal options in the heart of the City.

This strategic combination of Train Station renovation, riverfront green space, a high-quality pedestrian /bicycle facility, new connector streets, improved roads, Complete Street redesigns, and brownfield redevelopment has the extraordinary potential to transform the City of Waterbury. It will also be the most wideranging urban redevelopment project in the Naugatuck Valley region. By reconnecting and rebuilding neighborhoods, creating new public access to the City's riverfront and catalyzing brownfield redevelopment along this historic industrial corridor, the City will be taking decisive steps to rebuild a vibrant, livable Waterbury and recapture our role as the region's urban center.

Our region and our City are taking the steps to restore economic competitiveness to Naugatuck River Valley. Together, we have received *HUD Preferred Sustainability Status* and in 2011the Naugatuck River Greenway was recognized in the Department of Interior's *America's Great Outdoors: 50 State Report* as one of the best 100 outdoor projects in the nation. The Board of Parks strongly lends its support to the City's application and hopes you will consider the significant, concrete impact that this project will provide to both the Naugatuck Valley region and the City of Waterbury.

Respectfully,

Anthony Piccochi, Chairman

Waterbury Board of Park Commissioners

#### C/O CITY PLAN DEPARTMENT

One Jefferson Square • 5th Floor Waterbury, CT 06706 Office: (203) 574-6817 Fax: (203) 346-3949

Email: jsequin@waterburyct.org



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

## THE CITY OF WATERBURY

CONNECTICUT

March 24, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The City Plan Commission of the City of Waterbury is pleased to support the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application. This proposed project combines new green space, multi-modal trails, transit improvements, and Complete Streets reconstruction in the downtown Train Station area of the City's 7.4-mile Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG), which itself is a major component of the 44-mile regional NRG linking communities and rail stations up and down the river valley. The project is not only consistent with the City's Plan of Conservation and Development (2005), but combines Plan recommendations into a master plan and strategy for the redevelopment of the City's Train Station area with supportive multi-modal connections.

The City's proposed TIGER VI project is in accordance with the City's Plan as explained below:

- The referenced project is consistent with the Plan's recommendation that the City
  "emphasize the importance of the transit system to economic development," especially
  in light of the fact that approximately 20% of Waterbury households lack a vehicle.
- The project is consistent with the Plan's recommendation that the City create bicycle
  lanes on designated roadways and a pedestrian/bicycle riverfront greenway (in 2009 the
  City's Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway Routing and Feasibility Study was adopted
  into the Plan).
- The project is consistent with the recommendation that the City consider the redevelopment of the Train Station's Freight Street area a high priority economic development project: "The Freight Street area is the last major redevelopment opportunity with the potential for a transformative impact on the city economy... The land area potentially available for redevelopment is as great as the existing downtown."

Overall, we view this multi-modal project as a win-win for the City of Waterbury and the entire Naugatuck Valley River corridor and region. We strongly lend our support to the City's

application and hope you will consider the significant, concrete economic impact that this project will have on our City and region.

Sincerely,

Dennis Casey, Chair

City Plan Commission



April 16, 2014

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

### **Dear Secretary Foxx:**

As you begin the evaluation and award process for the TIGER VI Grant applications, please accept this letter in support of the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence (W.A.T.E.R.) project.

As president of the Waterbury Neighborhood Council, I am excited at the prospect of a TIGER Grant award for the City of Waterbury. The Waterbury Neighborhood Council was established to nurture and develop communities in the over 20 distinct and historic neighborhoods in the City, and in that role recognizes the importance of linking our neighborhoods, not only to each other, but the City and region as a whole. This ambitious project will do just that—connecting Waterbury's neighborhoods, education facilities, and employment centers to each other, as well as to the City's train station, the downtown, and neighboring river valley communities.

Waterbury's proposed TIGER VI project will also connect and enhance ongoing local and state transportation and transit improvements, which will promote alternative modes of transportation vital to stimulating economic development; improve regional and local traffic accessibility and mobility; and provide tremendous opportunities to catalyze remediation and sustainable redevelopment of underutilized land along the river's industrial corridor. Collectively, these improvements will encourage job creation and help rebuild Waterbury's corridor neighborhoods and downtown as vibrant, livable communities in which to live, work and play.

For over ten years, the Waterbury Neighborhood Council has committed itself to consistently supporting development of a Greenway trail along our riverfront, which is already in Phase One. I am enthusiastic about the potential award of a TIGER Grant, which will establish this trail within the extensive W.A.T.E.R. project for improving transportation and promoting economic revitalization of our neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration of this transformative project.

Sincerely,

**David Therault** 

President, Waterbury Neighborhood Council

Talerault



April 15, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce to express our support for the City of Waterbury's TIGER VI grant application for the **Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence** project.

As the region's premiere business network, resource and advocate, we are actively involved in initiatives that promote economic development, including those focused on transportation, quality of life, education, health, housing and the environment. The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence project complements the Chamber's municipal agenda for Waterbury in that it promotes and supports a sustainable local and regional economy; a vibrant, walkable downtown; a high-quality multi-modal, active transportation system; riverfront redevelopment; and, neighborhood community development. The Chamber has also been a leader in advocating for streamlined brownfield policies and initiatives that support remediation and redevelopment. The City's TIGER project catalyzes redevelopment of brownfields, both along the riverfront corridor and in the Freight Street area.

We applaud the City for its efforts to improve Waterbury's economic vitality, business climate and livability. We know that transportation has a major impact on how a city grows and flourishes. We believe the **Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence** project will have a transformational impact on the City of Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley region. We therefore urge you to consider this application favorably.

Respectfully,

Lynn G. Ward President/CEO



James C. Smith Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Webster Bank, N.A. 145 Bank Street Waterbury, CT 06702 Business 203.578.2214 jsmith@websterbank.com WebsterOnline.com

April 18, 2014

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

## Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Webster Bank, the 35<sup>th</sup> largest bank in the nation and the largest corporate employer in downtown Waterbury, Conn., I write to express my enthusiastic support for the **Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project**. This project has tremendous local and regional support among the public, business community, state and local officials, and our congressional delegation, all of whom recognize its potential to transform the City of Waterbury by stimulating reinvestment both in the City and Naugatuck River Valley corridor.

Webster Bank has called Waterbury its home since its founding by my late father, Harold Webster Smith, in 1935 during the depths of the Great Depression. Today, Webster Bank serves more than 300,000 customers through more than 168 banking centers in four states, providing consumer, business, government, and institutional banking. We have stood by Waterbury when it flourished, when it struggled, and are steadfastly committed to its future.

The Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project is one of the most comprehensive economic development and mobility efforts ever undertaken in the City of Waterbury and the region. It integrates the critical link of a 44-mile greenway system into a redesigned and rebuilt downtown active transportation network that encourages transit-oriented development around the City's Train Station and riverfront; promotes a vibrant, walkable downtown; and connects commercial centers south of the downtown with those north of the Train Station.

Most importantly, the project complements and completes other economic development and transportation initiatives now underway in the City. These include current renovations to the Train Station and planned future investments by CTDOT in the Waterbury Branch Line; the construction of Phase I of the Naugatuck River Greenway; the implementation of the DowntownNEXT strategic redevelopment plan; and the remediation and redevelopment of corridor brownfields.

-Page 2-The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary United States Department of Transportation April 24, 2014

It is clear that there is a strong and viable economic development momentum in Waterbury due in large part to the leadership and energy that Mayor Neil O'Leary has provided. I firmly believe that this project will accelerate that momentum and stimulate new economic activity in Waterbury. I thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Regards,

James C. Smith

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

Webster Bank



April 14, 2014

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

Re: TIGER VI Grant Application for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I strongly support and endorse the "Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence" project for TIGER VI Funding

Wesson Energy has a long history as a corporate leader in Waterbury and we are proud of our commitment to innovation in the energy sector. Serving 34 communities throughout the State of Connecticut, we know that our services truly have a regional impact, not only in economic terms, but more importantly on the lives of the homeowners we serve. Waterbury's TIGER VI project will have that same direct impact. As a property owner with land located directly adjacent to the proposed transportation improvements, Wesson welcomes the transformation that integrated roads, complete streets and a pedestrian/bike riverfront trail will bring to the neighborhoods surrounding the Train Station as underutilized, underserved land becomes attractive for redevelopment and our riverfront becomes connected to the City's population once again. This project truly will lay a solid foundation for a new future for the City and the Naugatuck River Valley corridor.

We urge you to consider funding this application. We feel that it exemplifies the goals and objectives of the TIGER program.

Craig Snyder President