

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2902

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing in support of the TIGER Discretionary Grant application submitted by the city of Berlin, New Hampshire. This application, for \$44,428,000, is to restore a critical regional road network, rapidly create 483 new job-years, and help rebuild the region's economic base drawing on its natural assets for tourism and renewable energy. The city of Berlin has submitted the application on behalf of the Androscoggin Valley Consortium, a partnership among six municipalities and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, created to repair, reconstruct, and preserve roadway surfaces in Coos County. The Consortium is a strong inter-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary and financial partnership that is the first known to be formed for the purpose of managing a multi-jurisdictional pavement management program.

Coos County is an economically disadvantaged area consistent with the special needs terms set out by the Federal Highway Administration. The City of Berlin and the towns of Colebrook, Dummer, Gorham, Milan, and Shelburne have experienced repeated severe and sudden economic impacts due to the collapse of the paper and pulp industry. This has resulted in the region's poor surface transportation infrastructure of which 70 percent of the roadways are in fair to failed condition. The result is road closures, lack of reliable access within the region and the rest of the State, and increased motor vehicle accidents.

This funding will allow the Consortium to establish an innovative integrated pavement management program bringing all aspects of road asset management under one program in order to overcome fragmentation and create jobs. The project will achieve an undiscounted reduction in lifecycle costs of \$17.92 million over ten years; create an estimated 1,200 new jobs in renewable energy and increased revenue in the tourism and recreation sector; reduce the energy used in restoring and preserving the road network by 74.3 million mega-joules and the carbon footprint associated with maintaining transportation infrastructure by 6.2 million kilograms over the first eight years of the maintenance program; reduce the number and severity of traffic accidents; and improve 911 access in the region. The localities and the State will each provide funding to ensure that the restored road network remains in a state of good repair. The Consortium has partnered with community non profit organizations and the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security to connect low income persons with the new jobs created and to realize important Disadvantaged Business Entity goals.

Thank you for your consideration of the city of Berlin's application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Levine of my staff at (603) 223-9814 or [Lisa.Levine@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lisa.Levine@mail.house.gov). I look forward to working with you and your office.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Hodes  
Member of Congress

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