

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my strong support for the TIGER grant application submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, City of Berlin, Town of Gorham, Town of Colebrook, and Town of Milan to repair roads and implement a road maintenance management program in Northern New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's North Country has been hard hit by the economic recession and the closure of two businesses that were major local employers. The difficult process of economic recovery is further hindered by a damaged infrastructure: the poorly maintained roads that form the area's transportation network. The region's deteriorating road system is a major obstacle to business development, tourism, and broader economic growth. Repairing and upgrading this network of rural roads is essential to the area's economic recovery.

This grant will fund immediate repairs to damaged roads across Coos County, creating jobs and investing new capital in local communities. The grant will also create a long-term maintenance program, responsible for monitoring road quality. Preventative maintenance will save money in the long-run by averting serious deteriorations that require costly overhauls.

I was proud to support provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that expanded the Department of Transportation's resources to invest in critical infrastructure projects and help local communities weather the storm of this economic recession. New Hampshire's North Country needs these funds to improve transportation and build a platform for sustained economy prosperity.

I fully support the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's application and urge your serious consideration of this worthy and necessary project. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants and Projects Coordinator, Mike Firestone, at (202) 224-2841.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

CC: Ms. Lana Hurdle, Acting Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs
Mr. Joel Szabat, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy