

BRIAN HIGGINS  
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3306  
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3226

726 EXCHANGE STREET  
SUITE 601  
BUFFALO, NY 14210  
(716) 852-3501  
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

640 PARK PLACE  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301  
(716) 282-1274  
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)  
higgins.house.gov

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April 22, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of the City of Buffalo's application for the United States Department of Transportation's (DOT) TIGER6-FY14 Discretionary Grant Program for the Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project, Buffalo New York. This application fully realizes the goals of the TIGER6-FY14 Discretionary Grant Program by advancing the City's highest priority capital project, the rebuilding of Main Street in downtown Buffalo. This project will re-introduce vehicular traffic along Buffalo's downtown transit mall, up-grade obsolete transit and pedestrian facilities, provide much needed vehicular access to Main Street buildings and improve downtown traffic circulation.

This transformative project has justifiably earned the support of all levels of governments in previous funding cycles in recognition of the importance of the project to the region. The 700 Block of Main Street was reopened in 2009, reconnecting the central business district to the dynamic Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, and the 600 Block of Main Street, home to the highly regarded Theater District, is under construction and will be completed this year. In 2011 the City of Buffalo was awarded a \$15 million TIGER Grant for the 500 Block of Main Street. A growing residential community, the 500 Block is under construction and will be completed during 2015. A TIGER6-FY14 Discretionary Grant Program grant will allow the City to continue the development momentum generated by these investments.

Automobiles were removed from Main Street over 32 years ago when the light rail Metro Rail system was built. Metro Rail benefits Western New York but closing the premier downtown street to automobiles has resulted in vacancy, lost property and tax value and harmed the image of the center of the region as we work together to attract new businesses and employers to our region. However, it is important to note that the ongoing work has already generated exciting public and private developments along Main Street helping to reverse these effects.

Thank you for your review and careful consideration of this submission as the Main Street Multi-Modal Access and Revitalization Project will continue to yield significant economic benefit and fully return Buffalo's Main Street as a "beautiful and complete street."

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS