



Letters in Support of the Village of Oak Park TIGER IV Grant Application
(click on the name below to view letter)

Ann L. Schneider
Illinois Department of Transportation

Randall S. Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Joseph G. Costello
Executive Director
Regional Transportation Authority

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senator

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Don Harmon
Illinois State Senate

The Honorable La Shawn K. Ford
Illinois House of Representatives

Gerald J. Roper
President and CEO
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Richard Pellegrino
Executive Director
West Central Municipal Conference

MarySue Barrett
President
Metropolitan Planning Council

Sara J.R. Faust
President
Oak Park Development Corporation

Thomas G. Lynch
President and CEO
Visit Oak Park

Michael Fox
R.P. Fox and Associates

Michael Glazier
Principal
Sertus Capital Partners, LLC

Willis G. Johnson
President
Tivoli Enterprises, Inc.

David J. King
President
David King & Associates, Inc.

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Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597

May 28, 2013

Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, 9th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) would like to offer strong support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) V grant application by the village of Oak Park for \$26 million for the Inner-Ring Renaissance Project. This project will result in the substantial redevelopment of a 30-block area in downtown Oak Park.

The redevelopment will include replacing deteriorated underground infrastructure, reconstructing streetscapes, expanding sidewalks, reducing intersection crosswalk distances, enhancing lighting, adding plaza spaces, and connecting the newly integrated downtown area more effectively with multimodal transit options. The goal of the project is to integrate surrounding land uses and zoning so as to substantially encourage additional transit ridership, enhance pedestrian and cyclist access, and leverage associated private sector investment. IDOT anticipates that the scope of work provided under the village of Oak Park's TIGER V application will qualify for a categorical exclusion and will meet federal standards on all federal highway portions of the project.

IDOT supports Oak Park's request for TIGER V funds and encourages your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann L. Schneider".

Ann L. Schneider
Secretary



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
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312-454-0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation,
Office of the Secretary
West Building—1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please consider this letter of support for Oak Park's TIGER Grant application. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is our region's federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, with a state mandate to conduct comprehensive regional planning for the seven counties that make up northeastern Illinois. Adopted in October 2010, the GO TO 2040 plan recommends strategic policies and investments to strengthen the region's communities, economy, and quality of life through mid-century and beyond. The Oak Park proposal to TIGER is consistent with the objectives of GO TO 2040, and by funding it, the U.S. Department of Transportation will support a project that can be a national model for pedestrian- and transit-oriented development.

Oak Park's TIGER application complements the emphasis on livable communities that is an essential aspect not only of GO TO 2040, but also USDOT's interagency partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It builds on the Greater Downtown Master Plan adopted by Oak Park in 2005 as its vision for the 21st Century. TIGER support from USDOT for the Oak Park project will support reconstruction of streets, sidewalks, and curbs, with high durability materials that have lower-lifecycle costs; enhanced public safety elements; incorporation of "green infrastructure"; implementation of new bike lanes to the target area and significant bike-supportive infrastructure and facilities; improved pedestrian access to regional rail and bus transit stops; energy efficient lighting; and other transformative improvements.

The Oak Park proposal gives particular consideration to the needs of low or no-vehicle households. By supporting these efforts, USDOT will create a showcase for the importance of thoughtful integration of all modes of transportation with retail, commercial, and residential land uses, in order to

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Executive Director

Randy Blankenhorn

May 22, 2013

Page 2

strengthen economic growth and to serve all members of our community with a particular eye toward the needs of disadvantaged populations.

Oak Park has a long track record of innovation, not just for modern architecture but also in terms of diversity and social policies, including its decision in 2011 to become the first U.S. city to adopt a 100-percent renewable energy portfolio standard. This TIGER grant will help make a reality of Oak Park's vision for transit-supportive, livability-driven development, creating a model for other downtown areas across the Midwest and nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall S. Blankenhorn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Randall S. Blankenhorn
Executive Director

TG:RSB/stk



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May 24, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Joseph G. Costello
Executive Director

Re: Oak Park, Illinois – TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please accept this letter in support of the Village of Oak Park's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Application. Oak Park's downtown is home to one of the most significant multi-modal facilities in the Chicago Metropolitan Area, and one of the only places that the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) rail and bus systems link to both Metra Commuter Rail and Pace Suburban Bus, with all four transit operations converging in the same place, on the same platform, providing interagency transfers to multiple destinations.

In 2005, Oak Park approved its Greater Downtown Master Plan funded by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) through their Community Planning Program. The plan includes all of the elements of transit-oriented development (TOD) planning with a particular emphasis on creating supportive zoning and a compelling streetscape environment that encourages the use of alternate modes of non-auto transportation (walking, biking, transit, etc).

Since its completion, the Village of Oak Park has illustrated a willingness to implement the recommendations in the Greater Downtown Master Plan including zoning modifications, property acquisition, environmental remediation, bike and pedestrian enhancements, underground infrastructure and two phases of streetscape transformation. These public investments have resulted in dramatic increases in private-sector investment on surrounding properties and, if Oak Park can move ahead with the remaining infrastructure investments recommended in the Plan, the area will experience additional growth and private capital investments focused on TOD.

One of the RTA's priorities is to maximize the use of our existing transit system by fostering sustainable and livable communities that enhance multi-modal transportation throughout the region as well as supporting efforts to create TOD markets. Similar to the federal government's livability initiatives, the RTA continues to coordinate with the transportation, housing, environment and economic development fields to align and support related efforts.

The RTA supports the Village of Oak Park's efforts to implement the recommendations from the Greater Downtown Master Plan for its expected contributions to regional transportation and encourages your support of the Village's application and efforts.

Please feel free to contact Tony Manno, Project Manager, Local Planning and Programs at 312.913.3211 or mannoa@rtachicago.org if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Costello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph G. Costello, Executive Director

United States Senate

May 23, 2013

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

RE: TIGER V Grant – Oak Park Downtown Transportation Infrastructure

Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the Village of Oak Park's application for a TIGER V grant to improve the transportation infrastructure of its downtown area.

The requested grant will finance multiple infrastructure refurbishment and improvement projects, with a particular focus on meeting the needs of low or no-vehicle households. Oak Park seeks to reconstruct its downtown streets, sidewalks and curbs, and will use high-durability materials that have been shown to have lower lifecycle maintenance costs. Cyclists and pedestrians will benefit with the addition of bike lanes, as well as other bike-supportive infrastructure and facilities, and improved pedestrian access to rail and bus stops.

Please note that Oak Park is a significant transit hub in the Chicago area, with rail service from METRA and the CTA, and bus service from the CTA and PACE. Oak Park was one of only three suburban Chicago locales to be designated by the CTA as a "Major Activity Center." An investment here would greatly benefit the Chicago area transit system as a whole, and would be an efficient use of the TIGER program's limited funds.

In light of the above facts, I ask that you give the Village of Oak Park's application every consideration.

Sincerely:



Mark Kirk
U.S. Senator



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Danny K. Davis
7th District - Illinois

May 22, 2013

Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please accept this communiqué as a letter of enthusiastic support for the application of the Village of Oak Park, Illinois for a TIGER IV grant to implement the remaining elements of their transit-driven Downtown Master Plan which, up to this point, has been entirely locally funded.

Oak Park is strategically located in the 7th Congressional District and near the geographic center of Cook County. The well researched application submitted by the Village envisions completion of a critical regional project that began with the creation of the Downtown Master Plan (2003-2005). Appropriate zoning changes have already been made and multiple phases of infrastructure investment have been completed. An additional phase of investment is now underway. The ultimate success of the overall project, and its ability to generate additional private investment and improvements in access to goods and services for many underserved and transit-dependent residents in the region relies upon the potential partnership between the Department of Transportation and Oak Park through this round of TIGER IV funding.

The 7th District is arguably the most diverse in the nation. It includes some of the most economically impacted communities in the country located both east and west of Oak Park. For many residents in these neighborhoods, downtown Oak Park serves as their primary retail and service area. Studies have shown that many of these residents do not have access to a car and are dependent upon public transit, both CTA rail and bus. Oak Park's Downtown Plan, and this TIGER IV application envisions making substantial investment to improve the pedestrian and transit focus of their downtown and to enhance the range of retail and service offerings available to all in the region.

Oak Park's initiative can be transformative for how we think about reinvesting in our urban areas, and how doing so can improve the positive impact of every dollar of transportation funding consistent with USDOT policy and Administration goals of economic recovery, livable communities, transit-oriented development, return on investment and the revitalization of urban and metropolitan areas.

I trust the application will receive all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny K. Davis".

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

DKD:ic

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39TH DISTRICT

May 28, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590


Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the 2013 TIGER Grant application submitted by the Village of Oak Park, Illinois. If received, these funds will be dedicated to a shovel-ready project to reconstruct streets, sidewalks and curbs, and improve public safety. This comprehensive project also includes “green,” multi-modal elements, such as pedestrian access to regional rail and bus transit, and bicycle amenities, as well as energy efficient lighting.

These improvements are part of the Greater Downtown Master Plan for Oak Park, which stands as a model for effective reinvestment in an urban area. The plan builds upon existing infrastructure resources by improving environmentally sustainable, multi-modal options for residents and visitors alike. Oak Park is transit-oriented, accessible by two urban subway lines, commuter rail, and bus lines, in addition to a major highway. The TIGER Grant would enhance access to the existing transportation network, while planning for the future. These investments will promote economic growth and job creation, and will be supported by significant matching dollars from the community, helping us to enhance the livability of the entire region.

As a lifelong resident of Oak Park, I can assure you that this grant is an opportunity for the Department of Transportation to make a worthy investment and support the community’s long history of forward thinking ideas and programs. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Don Harmon

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La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
8th District

May 30, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Oak Park, Illinois – TIGER Grant

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As you and your staff prepare to begin the current round of U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Grant evaluations, I wanted to voice my strong support for the application submitted by the Village of Oak Park, Illinois.

I represent a significant portion of Oak Park in the Illinois House, along with substantial portions of nine contiguous jurisdictions as well, including the Austin neighborhood of the city of Chicago. As such, I recognize the importance of Oak Park to the larger, regional economy. This TIGER Grant application represents a critical opportunity to address needed transit-focused pedestrian infrastructure improvements in ways that will reach far beyond Oak Park's borders.

The Obama Administration has articulated a vision for economic growth that includes supporting transit-oriented investments. Oak Park's TIGER Grant application offers the Department of Transportation an opportunity to pursue this vision with a project whose impact will benefit the entire region.

I support Oak Park's TIGER Grant application, not only because it will help create vitally needed economic opportunities for my district, but also because it will help strengthen the entire surrounding metropolitan area as well. I hope that you and your team come to fully appreciate the value that this project will bring to the region, and that you reach a decision to act favorably upon Oak Park's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LKF".

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative – Eighth District



May 28, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Oak Park, Illinois – TIGER Grant

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I'm writing today to express unqualified support for the TIGER Grant application submitted by Oak Park, Illinois, that advances important regional transportation and economic competitiveness objectives here in the Chicago metropolitan region.

As you know, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest and most significant business organizations in the nation. In addition to providing business assistance to our members, our mission is to make Chicagoland the most business-friendly region in America.

To keep our region moving forward, we push a proactive agenda at all levels of government to promote the economic development of the region. That includes working with our elected officials, member companies and countless partner organizations on key initiatives. We target policies that encourage economic development and job growth, including: regional expansion of new economy jobs through innovation; creating an environment that fosters an entrepreneurial culture; and enhancing our transportation infrastructure while increasing its efficiency.

More specifically, we actively promote transportation planning that is consistent with land use plans for the region; we support a well-planned and coordinated effort to implement an ongoing infrastructure program including increased investments in transit systems; and we pursue public-private partnership opportunities in support of transportation infrastructure projects.

Oak Park's TIGER application is squarely in the wheel-house of all of these core economic development and transportation priorities. Oak Park is proposing to complete its implementation of its 2005 Greater Downtown Master Plan, thereby creating a leading regional model for effective, pedestrian and transit-focused urban reinvestment that strengthens transit usage and correspondingly reduces roadway trip volumes, thus reducing congestion and road surface deterioration.

More importantly, this model also advances the CMAP 2040 regional land-use plan calling for more concentrated, dense, and efficient development around existing transit nodes. Oak Park centers its plan around one of only a handful of truly integrated multi-service and multi-modal transportation and transfer hubs in the entire metropolitan region, handling, as it does, CTA bus and rail traffic, suburban bus and rail, and automobile as well as non-motorized modes.

Reinvesting in transit-oriented urban neighborhoods within our nation's metropolitan areas is also simply a smart business move. On the cost-avoidance side, you're reinvesting capital in places where you already have established other supportive infrastructure, thereby reducing other attendant costs of development for both the public and private sectors. You also capture significant benefits by spreading your up front capital investment over a much larger pool of users, given the higher densities that exist in such areas. Finally, you have tremendous opportunities to drive "mode-shift", moving people out of cars and into more cost effective modes of travel while also limiting the rate of growth in demand for future expansions of the roadway system (which carry with them very high capital investment costs).

Revenue opportunities also exist including increased location value and investment potential stemming from the additional foot-traffic and spending power (including both "size of wallet" and "share of wallet"). An equally strong case can be made regarding increased recruitment potential, particularly as it relates to creatives and tech employees who undergird much of the innovation economy. Such employees tend toward vibrant, attractive, and accessible locales, both for their work and for their place of residence. It is far easier and less expensive to strengthen and enhance neighborhoods around existing rail transit options than it is to build new neighborhoods in densities and of a character that will actually result in the creation of such vibrant spaces. In addition, new types of offerings or facilities can be added to existing transit infrastructure and roadway systems in order to respond directly to any identified needs of potential private sector investors – as Oak Park proposes to do with its plan to lay conduit supporting the redirection of high-capacity fiber trunk lines directly into its downtown area.

All of these benefits, on both the revenue and cost sides, argue for reinvestment as a key strategy for USDOT to pursue. They are critical factors in our decision to strongly endorse the creation of Oak Park as a leading model of transit oriented reinvestment for northeastern Illinois and beyond, and we hope that you will weigh them heavily as you begin to evaluate the TIGER Grant submissions. We don't believe that you'll find an application stronger than Oak Park's.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald J. Roper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "R".

Gerald J. Roper
President & CEO

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May 30, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
 Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

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 River Grove, IL 60171
 ph 708/453-9100 fax 708/453-9101
 www.westcook.org

Re: Oak Park, Illinois – TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the West Central Municipal Conference in support of Oak Park’s application for TIGER Grant funding.


The West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) serves as the regional Council of Governments (COG) representing 36 municipalities and 5 townships in Cook and DuPage County. The Conference, through its membership, seeks to improve the quality of life for our residents through the cooperation of local governments, and to foster a sense of regionalism. The WCMC region of nearly 200 square miles is characterized as the mature “inner ring” of suburbs uniquely situated just outside of the City of Chicago. The residential population represented consists of more than 500,000 people and is diverse, both in terms of its racial and ethnic composition.

In addition to my role as Executive Director of the WCMC, my perspective is also informed by my prior experience as a Mayor in this area who understands the central importance of wise financial and land use investments that can transform entire regions and present opportunities for so many of our residents. I am confident that this Oak Park application will be just such an investment.

Here in northeastern Illinois, as highways have opened up further and further reaches of land in the 6-county area for suburban residential development, the inner-ring communities that compromise the WCMC have seen declining populations and a decline in retail, commercial, and residential investment. However, with increasing transportation costs (particularly driven by fuel prices), and with changing generational attitudes typified by greater interest in living in more dense urban settings, the municipalities in the West Central Municipal Conference may begin to see greater levels of interest (and possibly even investment). If Oak Park’s TIGER application is approved and the plan implemented, the rate of investment in our entire region will accelerate, and the ceiling for potential job creation and economic investment will increase.

The municipalities in our region are small enough, both in terms of population and geography, that they are all interdependent. We all benefit from the good things that happen in the region, and we all are very interested to learn from one another so that together we can improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for all of our residents and for the region as a whole. Oak Park’s TIGER application can play a central role in the revitalization of Western Cook County and I urge your strongest support for it.

Kind Regards,


 Richard Pellegrino
 Executive Director



Metropolitan Planning Council

May 28, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, United States Dept. of Transportation
12000 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Oak Park, Illinois TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am very pleased to offer this letter on behalf of Oak Park, Illinois in support of their TIGER Grant Application. Oak Park's application is important, not only locally, but on a regional and national level.

Oak Park has been a regional and national leader for decades in a number of social policy areas, particularly surrounding issues of fair housing and the proactive encouragement of racial and economic diversity and opportunity. As such, Oak Park is looked as a model by other municipalities, both here in the metropolitan area and around the country. Consequently, Oak Park's TIGER application is important in ways that extend well beyond even this region's footprint.

Since 1934, the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) has been dedicated to shaping a more sustainable and prosperous greater Chicago region. As an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization, MPC serves communities and residents by developing, promoting, and implementing solutions for sound regional growth. As part of their effort, MPC has partnered with Oak Park on initiatives including Homes for a Changing Region. Oak Park also served as the catalyst in bringing together other western Cook County municipalities to establish the West Cook County Housing Collaborative, an interjurisdictional collaboration supported by MPC and created to advance fair, equitable, and responsible housing policies that reflect an understanding of the interconnected nature of housing, transportation, and land-use practices and their potential impacts. Through this work, I have come to understand in detail the central role that Oak Park's efforts play here in the greater metropolitan region. Its influence is disproportionately large.

MPC also undertakes initiatives to advance fresh thinking about transportation planning, management, and finance strategies that elevate decision-makers' expectations about the value of improving transportation options in order to keep Chicagoland attractive and economically competitive. Through research, policy advocacy, and outreach, MPC is exploring innovative ways to increase the capacity of our existing transportation network to meet growing demand while reducing the need for costly new investments. From pedestrian and bike improvements to innovative transit alternatives, we are exploring ways to reduce excel traffic congestion, connect jobs, retail and homes and realize greater benefits form current and future transportation investments.

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The substance of Oak Park's TIGER application speaks directly to this need to think more creatively about the connections that exist between transportation and land use. More compact, dense, mix-use development around transit hubs is exactly what both the federal government and Chicago's long-term comprehensive regional plan, GO TO 2040 call for. This approach, particularly street and district enhancements integrated with improved transit access options are core elements of Oak Park's application. If anyplace in the Midwest can establish an effective alternative model to the decades of sprawl-inducing highway construction and expansion that we have witnessed for the past half-century, Oak Park's TIGER application sets the stage for it. For the good of our region and as an example to our nation, I hope that you will see fit to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MarySue Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

MarySue Barrett
President



May 24, 2013

The Honorable Raymond LaHood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 2013 TIGER GRANT APPLICATION

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The Oak Park Development Corporation (OPDC) is a not-for-profit economic development agency serving Oak Park, Illinois. We are a purposefully diverse, densely populated, environmentally conscious village that provides a variety of employment opportunities, social agency support, goods and services for the region. Our trade area includes Oak Park area residents, commuters using the Metra, Green Line, and Blue Line as a connector, and many tourists visiting our historic treasures.

As a professional development organization, OPDC recognizes the value of the infrastructure improvements and well designed public places. We are a commerce center that has independently weathered the economic downturn. However, we have a number of large vacancies and assistance will help renew our efforts in building a thriving central business district for the region. Public improvements of this nature assist in enhancing connectivity, support our desire to be more walking/public transit-oriented, boost the economy by increasing community confidence, and strengthen a sense of safety. Our residents, employees, shoppers and visitors enjoy the public improvements made thus far in furthering our downtown Master Plan. The proposed projects supported by the 2013 TIGER application represent an important step for the greater downtown area, Oak Park, and surrounding communities.

For nearly 40 years, OPDC has worked to leverage private investment in Oak Park. This project is a substantial undertaking and, although the grant sought is significant, we recognize that local expense will be incurred to further the infrastructure and public improvements. We believe, based on past successes, that private investment will occur at a higher rate in conjunction and proximity to this project, making this a good investment of public resources.

Therefore, the Oak Park Development Corporation supports the Village of Oak Park's 2013 TIGER application. On behalf of its Board of Directors, we encourage a favorable consideration of and decision for the Oak Park application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara J.R. Faust", is written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Sara J.R. Faust, President

Oak Park Development Corporation
104 N. Oak Park Ave., Suite 203, Oak Park, IL 60301
708.383.3838 Main 708.383.3414 Fax

opdc.net

BELLWOOD

May 28, 2013

BERKELEY

BERWYN

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

BROADVIEW

BROOKFIELD

Dear Secretary LaHood:

CICERO

ELMWOOD PARK

FOREST PARK

FRANKLIN PARK

HILLSIDE

MAYWOOD

MELROSE PARK

NORTHLAKE

NORTH RIVERSIDE

OAK PARK

RIVER FOREST

RIVER GROVE

RIVERSIDE

SCHILLER PARK

STONE PARK

WESTCHESTER

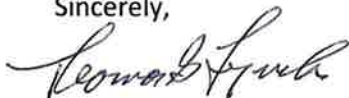
Visit Oak Park is a state-certified Visitors Bureau representing twenty-one communities in Western Cook County, and boasting major attractions and vibrant business districts located in the Village of Oak Park itself. Principal among those business districts is Downtown Oak Park, where our Visitors Center is located. The Center last year enjoyed the highest number of visitors in its history, and visitor numbers are even higher this year. Without question the delightful atmosphere created by the downtown area streetscaping project played a major role in that achievement. Streetscaping creates an attractive, comfortable environment for visitor-shoppers. Businesses in the area have shared in the success of the recent streetscaping project, and will continue to benefit as the Downtown Oak Park Master Plan is further implemented.

The number of visitors to the Oak Park Area is expected to reach close to three million this year, as the community continues to be the second most-visited in the state, exceeded only by the City of Chicago itself. Forty percent of its visitors come from outside the United States. A large portion of our visitors arrive on the convenient public transportation serving the Oak Park Area. From our multi-modal transit station, visitors are directed by clear signage to and through the beautiful streetscaped area of Marion St. and its myriad of businesses, and on to the remainder of the Downtown area and the Visitors Center.

As the beautification of the area continues through additional streetscaping efforts, visitor numbers can be expected to grow even further and create more economic benefit to the community. Studies by the Illinois Council of Convention and Visitor Bureaus show that for every dollar invested in the promotion of tourism in our area, eight dollars are returned in economic benefit.

We trust that you will be supportive of Oak Park's application for TIGER 2013 Grant funds, so that the efforts to date can continue to be expanded, to the overall economic benefit of our area. Illinois tourism is one of the state's largest employers, with one in ten jobs relating to tourism. Investing in tourism areas helps preserve and create jobs, and the Oak Park Area is especially well-positioned to benefit from the support of TIGER 2013 Grant funding.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Lynch
 President and CEO
 Visit Oak Park



OFFICES
 1118 WESTGATE
 OAK PARK, IL 60301
 PHONE 1.708.524.7800
 FAX 1.708.524.7473

VISITOR CENTER
 1010 LAKE ST.
 OAK PARK, IL 60301
 PHONE 1.888.OAK.PARK
 PHONE 1.888.625.7255

VisitOakPark.com

R.P. Fox & Associates, Inc.
Fox Partners, L.P.

1110 PLEASANT STREET • OAK PARK, IL 60302

PHONE (708) 848-9550 • FAX (708) 848-9554

WWW.RPFOX.COM

May 21, 2013

The Honorable Raymond LaHood
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
Re: Oak Park, Illinois – Tiger Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing you in regards to the streetscape improvements within the Greater Downtown Oak Park Area. As you may know, the Village of Oak Park has completed several streetscape projects in this area over the past few years. These improvements have been more than just your typical concrete and asphalt improvements. The Village is following a Comprehensive Master Plan that encourages the use of public transportation by creating a pedestrian friendly environment.

Our company operates several commercial buildings within the boundaries of the Downtown Area. All of which are a short walk to mass transit. The areas that have the new streetscape have seen a vast improvement in pedestrian traffic. This traffic has created an increased demand for our retail spaces, many of which sat vacant for 2 – 3 years. Our retail spaces in those areas are now 100 % occupied. The new tenants (and I) have renovated those once empty spaces into thriving stores. What was once a sea of vacancies now is fully occupied street.

I would like to see the Village continue to invest in these transit-oriented areas so others may invest as well. Master Plans that sit in a desk will not create vibrancy, implemented ones can. The investment the Village has made so far has shown that, we would like to see that investment continue.

Sincerely,



Michael Fox
R.P. Fox and Associates

SERTUS CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC.

PROPERTY INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT



May 21, 2013

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

Re: Oak park, Illinois – TIGER Grant Application IV

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As the managing partner of a real estate investment and development company based in the Chicago area that is focused primarily on transit oriented projects, I am writing to support the request from the Village of Oak Park, Illinois for a TIGER grant for use in furthering the enhancement and redevelopment of its downtown.

Our company is currently working to finalize a significant transit-oriented mixed-use project in Oak Park's downtown. The plan calls for a LEED-Silver, Class-A 270-unit rental apartment building with ground floor retail and enclosed public and private parking. The genesis of this development project program can be found in the Greater Downtown Master Plan (GDTMP) adopted in 2005 by the Village of Oak Park that aims at fostering the very type of project we are pursuing. Since its adoption, Oak Park has invested more than \$11 million towards the realization of the GDTMP's goals, which in turn has garnered matching significant private sector investment in new housing located within walking distance of the CTA Green line and Metra transit stops and has sparked a revival in new retail establishments and sales in the heart of Oak Park's downtown.

The subject TIGER grant request, we believe, will enhance Oak Park's ability to further stimulate the type of private sector funding that we have committed to making in the Redevelopment Agreement for our project. This includes our agreement to pay for remaking the streetscape around our project to match the new

Letter to Honorable R. LaHood

May 21, 2013

Page 2 of 2

standard for such improvements adopted by the Village for the greater downtown area. Those standards include items such as indicated by already reconstructed areas, upgrade pedestrian areas featuring raised planters and period street furniture, which in the areas where they have already been installed, have proven their value in enhancing the shopping and pedestrian experience in the community's downtown.

This type of public sector investment, in our experience, is a proven strategy for attracting new private sector investment, which together helps enhance, renew and expand transit-oriented communities. By pairing the best planning practices with new private sector investment, Oak Park stands ready to build on its success to date in renewing its downtown, creating the desired ripple effects of enhancing the quality of life for its residents, creating new jobs and expanding its tax base.

Please join us in supporting Oak Park's vision and commitment to renewing its downtown by approving its TIGER grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Glazier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Glazier
Principal

TIVOLI ENTERPRISES, INC.

Operators of CLASSIC CINEMAS® Movie Theatres www.classiccinemas.com
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603 Rogers Street
Downers Grove, IL, 60515-3774

630/968-1600
FAX 630/968-1626

May 22, 2013

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

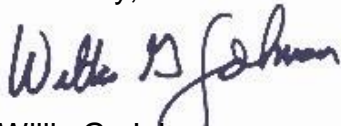
RE: Oak Park, IL - Tiger IV Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The investments the Village of Oak Park has made in Downtown Oak Park Shopping has revitalized the area and we want this to continue. As the owner of the Historic Lake Theatre building (1936) which was a single screen bargain theatre when we came in 1981. We have been able to expand to a 7 screen first run theatre. Plus we have added 3 tenants, Fannie May Candy, a new concept from 1-800-Flowers, Cheryl's and a restaurant Jerusalem Café.

A goal the Village has pursued is to tie 3 separate business districts together, DTOP, The Avenue and Pleasant. The Federal Tiger IV Grant funding will help the Village meet this goal by tying the streetscaping and other improvements from Harlem Ave on the west to Euclid on the east.

Sincerely,



Willis G. Johnson
President



May 22, 2013

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

RE: Oak Park, Illinois
Tiger IV Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing this letter in support of Oak Park's Tiger IV Grant Application.

I have seen time and time again that public investment has a significantly positive effect on private investment. The Village of Oak Park has been a strong proponent of this approach and the community has realized its benefits.

Oak Park has developed a strong Master Plan for its Greater Downtown Area and has invested over \$11 Million since its adoption. As a result, private owners have invested similar money in their properties. And as a further result, we have seen significant interest from both residential and commercial parties in our Downtown Area.

I would ask you to support Oak Park, Illinois in their Tiger IV Grant Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David J. King", is written over the typed name.

David J. King
President

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TONI PRECKWINKLE

PRESIDENT

EARLEAN COLLINS	1st Dist.	PETER N. SILVESTRI	9th Dist.
ROBERT STEELE	2nd Dist.	BRIDGET GAINER	10th Dist.
JERRY BUTLER	3rd Dist.	JOHN P. DALEY	11th Dist.
WILLIAM M. BEAVERS	4th Dist.	JOHN A. FRITCHEY	12th Dist.
DEBORAH SIMS	5th Dist.	LARRY SUFFREDIN	13th Dist.
JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY	6th Dist.	GREGG GOSLIN	14th Dist.
JESUS G. GARCIA	7th Dist.	TIMOTHY O. SCHNEIDER	15th Dist.
EDWIN REYES	8th Dist.	JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI	16th Dist.
		ELIZABETH ANN DOODY GORMAN	17th Dist.



COOK COUNTY
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HERMAN BREWER
BUREAU CHIEF

George W. Dunne Cook County Office Building
69 W. Washington, Suite 3008
Chicago, Illinois 60602-3134
TEL: (312) 603-1077
FAX: (312) 603-9725

June 3, 2013

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Village of Oak Park, Illinois – TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of Cook County, Illinois and its Bureau of Economic Development, please accept our strong support for the TIGER Grant application submitted by Oak Park, Illinois, and our request that you also lend your support to this critically important initiative.

The application builds upon the 2005 Greater Downtown Master Plan for Oak Park, and many of the implementation steps that have already taken place, funded solely at the local level. These steps and future plans are entirely consistent with livability and transit-focused priorities advanced by USDOT and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's GoTo 2040 Plan, as well as Cook County's emphasis on strategic TOD reinvestment. With their TIGER grant application, Oak Park has advanced itself as a model of forward-thinking, efficient, and equitable urban reinvestment.

Most importantly, if successful, Oak Park's application will help to serve the needs of a much broader population, well beyond the 500,000 people in western Cook County. It will establish a critical example of how cities, counties, states, and the federal government are able to form strategic partnerships to help chart a course of renewal for urban America.

I strongly encourage you to support Oak Park's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Brewer".

Herman Brewer, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Economic Development



ORIGINAL
RESOLUTION

2013-R-78_C_052013

AUTHORIZING STAFF TO APPLY FOR A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TIGER DISCRETIONARY GRANT

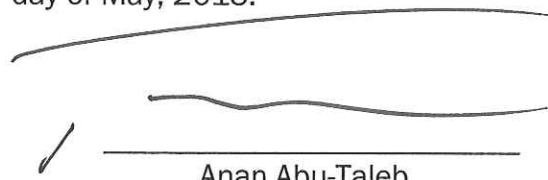
BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Cook County, State of Illinois, that the Village Manager or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to apply for a United States Department of Transportation TIGER Discretionary Act grant.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and approval as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 20th day of May, 2013, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

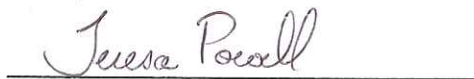
Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
President Abu-Taleb	✓			
Trustee Barber	✓			
Trustee Brewer	✓			
Trustee Johnson	✓			
Trustee Lueck	✓			
Trustee Tucker	✓			
Trustee Salzman	✓			

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by me, this 20th day of May, 2013.



Anan Abu-Taleb
Village President

ATTEST:



Teresa Powell
Village Clerk