



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PO Box 001
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

August 16, 2010

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

Re: New Jersey Department of Transportation
National Infrastructure Investment
"TIGER II" Grants Program Application
Route 18 (Hoes Lane) Extension

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support of the New Jersey Department of Transportation's application for funding the Route 18 (Hoes Lane) Extension project under the National Infrastructure Investment "TIGER II" Grants Program.

This project will extend the current northern terminus of State Route 18 by approximately 2.5 miles to Interstate 287, completing the total extension of NJ Route 18 through Middlesex County. This existing corridor, which is a key part of the Rutgers University campuses as well as several growing high technology and research firms, experiences major operational delays and queuing throughout the morning and evening peak commuter time as well as during major events taking place at the University. There has been an overriding need for many years to complete this "gap" in the system, and we are moving forward to accomplish that as expeditiously as possible.

In addition, the Department has recently completed a \$200 million reconstruction of Route 18 in New Brunswick. The level of investment that the State of New Jersey has already made on Route 18 signifies the importance of this highway to the quality of life and economic growth needs for central New Jersey.