

## United States Senate

April 7, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Senator from Indiana, I am increasingly concerned about the ongoing deterioration of our transportation infrastructure, and the negative impact this decay has on economic and community development, livability and public safety. The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program supports projects that are vital to the stability and growth of American communities while encouraging transformative economic change. One of these projects, the Eisenhower Bridge is an essential component of the transportation infrastructure of Anderson, Indiana. This bridge serves as the eastern gateway to downtown and it is a critical component of the economic infrastructure of Madison County, where Anderson is the county seat. Built in 1969 and now 47 years old and structurally deteriorating at a rapid rate, the Eisenhower Bridge must be replaced so that users can continue to travel safely and efficiently around the area. I wholeheartedly support the application from Madison County and the City of Anderson for \$13.5 million in TIGER funding for the construction of a new, safe bridge.

Anderson is located approximately 30 miles northeast of Indianapolis along I-69 and is home to approximately 55,455 Hoosiers. This community relies on the Eisenhower Bridge to carry nearly 15,000 cars and 900 trucks to downtown businesses, government agencies, homes and educational institutions every day. Furthermore, this route serves as a major corridor between Indiana State Road 9 and Indiana State Roads 109 and 32, both of which provide access to U.S. Interstate 69, an important North/South freight corridor from central Indiana to Michigan, as well as a commuter route to Ball State University in Muncie.

The Eisenhower Bridge, which is the most heavily used bridge in the county, carries 8th Street over the White River and is a critical transportation link employment, training, and government and social service agencies. Three neighborhoods, Park Place, Shadeland, and Irondale, are located within a short distance of the bridge and these residents are particularly dependent on the access this bridge provides. Many residents are unemployed, or severely underemployed and live below the poverty line. In addition, people living in these areas have a lower high school graduation rate, as well as higher addiction and crime rates. If the bridge is not upgraded and brought up to safety standards, these residents will find it significantly more difficult to access essential services, job training and educational opportunities, or behavioral and health care assistance.

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The Eisenhower Bridge Replacement Project is part of an ambitious economic revitalization plan for the Madison County/Anderson region, where the unemployment rate for the City of Anderson is roughly 6.6%, significantly higher than the state average of 5.4 percent. Consistent with the goals of the TIGER program, this transformative project will create construction jobs and ultimately stimulate the economic development along the corridor in which it is located, one of the most distressed areas of the state, and the country.

The estimated total project cost of the Eisenhower Bridge Replacement Project is \$18 million. Of this total, Madison County and the City of Anderson will contribute \$4.5 million, providing a non-federal match of 25 percent of the total project cost.

I would greatly appreciate your careful consideration of this grant application from Madison County and the City of Anderson, Indiana, in accordance with U.S. law and public policy. I would be pleased to be informed when a decision is announced. Questions and announcements can be directed to my Grants Director Marianne Black, at [Marianne\\_Black@donnelly.senate.gov](mailto:Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov) or by telephone at (317) 226.5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator