

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As the Department of Transportation considers applications for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant opportunity, I would like to bring to your attention the National Gateway initiative.

The National Gateway project is one that involves a public and private partnership that envisions more than \$800 million in rail infrastructure and intermodal terminal investments. It is my understanding that there is more than \$500 million of public and private sector funds committed to date. If awarded funding, the initiative will create a more efficient freight transportation network, with a positive impact on the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions.

It has been brought to my attention that the initiative will also improve the traffic flow of containers travelling from the West Coast to the Eastern ports of the United States by enabling rail traffic to flow more efficiently through the Midwest. The initiative will compliment the investments Ohio and the nation have already made to improving intermodal container transportation and the construction of advanced facilities and terminals.

It is my understanding that the project will deliver approximately \$5 billion in public benefits while improving our nation's ability to address a growing volume of container shipments. As the Department of Transportation reviews the application, I am confident that you will find the objectives of the National Gateway proposal are closely aligned with the goals of the Department of Transportation's TIGER program.

I respectfully request that the Department of Transportation carefully consider the National Gateway proposal for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator