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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
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May 28, 2013

Amit Bose, Deputy Assistant Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Bose:

I am writing in support of the City of Arcata's application for funding through a 2013 TIGER discretionary grant for the Humboldt Bay Rail-with-Trail Connectivity Project. This project will become the backbone of Humboldt County's regional non-motorized transportation system. A large coalition of governments, community organizations and citizens in this northern California region has completed extensive studies and designed a project to meet the vision of a non-motorized, multi-use trail network. The Humboldt County community is eager to shift the local transportation paradigm from motorized vehicles to biking, walking, and physical activity.

The Humboldt Bay Rail-with-Trail Connectivity Project involves construction, operation, and maintenance of an 8.0-mile-long Class I, ADA accessible, non-motorized multiuse trail. The project corridor starts in northern Arcata, winds through Arcata and along the eastern edge of Humboldt Bay south to Eureka, connecting the county's two largest communities. The current 2013 TIGER request will fund Phase II of a three phase project to construct three miles of multi-use commuter and recreation trail from Arcata to the U.S. Highway 101/Bracut intersection.

A TIGER Discretionary grant is a perfect match for this project. The local community has a proven track record of developing non-motorized transportation corridors but the high cost per mile of this section is out of reach for this rural, economically disadvantaged area. The project was developed through a large regional partnership and further meets the grant's selection criteria by providing short and long-term economic stimulus to our region and increasing safety and livability.

I urge your full and fair consideration of the City of Arcata's application for TIGER funds.

Sincerely,


JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

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