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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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June 3, 2013

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

Subject: City of Arcata's Rail-with-Trail Connectivity Project – TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The County of Humboldt strongly supports the City of Arcata's TIGER grant application for the **Arcata Rail-with-Trail Connectivity Project**. The Arcata to Bracut Marsh segment of this Class I pathway is a long-awaited asset for both existing and new bicycle commuters and for recreationists from this region and beyond. The Humboldt Bay segment of the California Coastal Trail between Arcata and Eureka has long been a public priority. Several local and regional jurisdictions and community organizations are working collaboratively to realize this goal.

Humboldt County Public Works is currently completing designs for the Class I path segment from Bracut Marsh to Eureka, located directly south of Arcata's proposed project, in partnership with the City of Eureka and the Humboldt County Association of Governments. We are also improving and planning other segments of the Coastal Trail and a connecting multi-use trail system between Arcata and the inland City of Blue Lake to improve transportation and recreation options for residents and visitors.

When complete, Arcata's segment of Class I path adjacent to US 101 will help our region leverage support for the next segment to the south, into the City of Eureka. With a contiguous Class I facility between Eureka and Arcata, we will be able to redirect a significant bicycle commuting route off of a high volume segment of US 101 (AADT of 36,500) and onto a parallel facility, which will substantially improve traffic safety. We also anticipate that this new facility will attract a significant number of new bicycle commuters and bicycle tourists.

We encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to become a major partner in the implementation of a non-motorized transportation facility in high demand on California's north coast.

Please contact me at (707) 445-7491 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Mattson
Director of Public Works