



Resolutions & Letters of Support

Village of Oak Park Resolution in support of an application for a United States Department of Transportation Tiger Discretionary Grant

Timothy E. Gillian, Village Administrator
Village of Forest Park

Randall S. Blankenhorn, Acting Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation

Donna Kush, Vice President, Public Affairs
Union Pacific Railroad

Jill Leary, Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
United State House of Representatives

The Honorable Don Harmon
Illinois State Senate

The Honorable La Shawn K. Ford
Illinois House of Representatives

David Bennett, Executive Director
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

Cathy Yen, Executive Director
Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce

Sarah Gulseth, President
Pleasant District Association

ORIGINAL

RES 15-277_O_051815

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF
A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TIGER 2015 DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATION FOR
THE HARLEM AVENUE MULTIMODAL BRIDGE PROJECT**

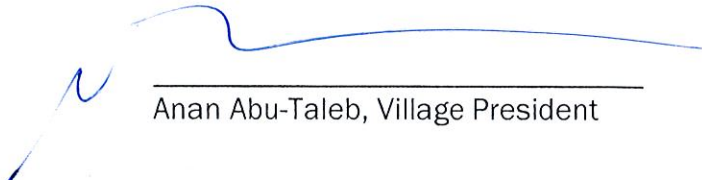
BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Cook County, State of Illinois, in the exercise of their home rule powers, that the Village Manager, or the Village Manager's designee, is hereby authorized and directed to submit a United States Department of Transportation TIGER 2015 Discretionary Grant Application for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridger Project.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and approval as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 18th day of May, 2015 pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
President Abu-Taleb	X			
Trustee Barber	X			
Trustee Brewer	X			
Trustee Lueck				X
Trustee Ott	X			
Trustee Salzman	X			
Trustee Tucker	X			

APPROVED this 18th day of May, 2015.


Anan Abu-Taleb, Village President

ATTEST:


Teresa Powell, Village Clerk



May 6, 2015

Honorable Anan Abu-Taleb
Village President
Village of Oak Park
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Anthony T. Calderone
MAYOR

517 DESPLAINES AVENUE
FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS 60130
708-366-2323
FAX 708-771-0177
www.forestpark.net

Mark. S. Hosty
COMMISSIONER
ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

Rory E. Hoskins
COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Tom Mannix
COMMISSIONER
STREETS & PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Chris Harris
COMMISSIONER
PUBLIC PROPERTY

Timothy E. Gillian
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Vanessa Moritz
VILLAGE CLERK

Dear President Abu-Taleb,

The Village of Forest Park is excited to participate in the TIGER grant request for the Harlem Avenue Underpass. We fully understand that our commitment to this project will require a local funding match. In March of 2014 voters in Forest Park approved a .05% of one cent sales tax increase that is legally and solely bound to infrastructure needs. This adds to a previous successful referendum from 2005 for the same purpose. Based upon historical data, we generate approximately one million annually from .05 percent. We anticipate this amount will double in future years, given this new authority to tax a full 1%.

In addition to the aforementioned monies available to us for this project, the Village does possess another source of funding in our Brown Street TIF district which can be found immediately adjacent to the proposed project location. If necessary I am confident that our TIF dollars could be used on this project as the improvements made to the underpass and the CTA will enhance the existing TIF area. We currently have ample increment in this TIF.

Forest Park is a non-home rule community with current annual revenues of approximately \$22,000,000.00. Over the last 4 years we have been able to keep our expenses under actual revenue. The dedicated revenue stream from the sales tax referendum along with responsible spending has resulted in strong fiscal management.

To summarize our position; Forest Park clearly understands the financial commitment necessary for this project and we have a dedicated revenue source to meet that demand. We look forward to working with Oak Park and River Forest in bringing this necessary project to fruition. Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns about our role in this project.

Very truly,

Timothy E. Gillian

Village Administrator



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597

May 27, 2015

Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) would like to offer support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VII application submitted by the villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park. This grant request for \$19.2 million will fund the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement project.

This project will upgrade and replace a vital piece of infrastructure serving several transportation modes including automobiles, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) trains, Metra commuter rail, several CTA and Public Transportation Agency for the Chicago Area Suburbs (Pace) bus routes, freight, pedestrians and bicycle traffic. It will allow for safer operations for all users of the bridge providing additional capacity, dramatically upgrading the pedestrian environment, and enhance the journeys of CTA, Metra and Pace customers.

The project is located at the existing underpass which carries the Union Pacific Railroad, Metra, and the CTA, over Harlem Avenue (IL 43). The boundaries of the villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park intersect at this location. Originally constructed in 1911, the Union Pacific Bridge is functionally obsolete for traffic along Harlem Avenue. The bridge, in its current configuration, is a pinch point for automobiles, buses, and trucks restricting access through the local retail corridor extending from Madison Street to Lake Street. In addition, the low clearance and pier columns of the bridge create a safety hazard due to lane widths, driver distraction, obstruction of sight lines, and roadway geometries.

IDOT supports this request for TIGER VII funds and encourages the United States Department of Transportation's favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Randall S. Blankenhorn'.

Randall S. Blankenhorn
Acting Secretary

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
1400 Douglas Street, STOP 1560
Omaha, Nebraska 68179

Donna M. Kush Vice President Public Affairs- Northern Region

P 402 544 3753
F 402 501 0010
C 402 216 5486
dmkush@up.com

June 1, 2015

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

Re: Union Pacific Railroad Support of Villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park 2015 TIGER Grant Application Harlem Avenue Multimodal Replacement Project.

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), I am writing to inform you of our support of the 2015 TIGER discretionary grant application from the Villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park, Illinois, for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement Project.

The project is expected to provide local and regional mobility improvements needed for western Cook County to meet future economic, mobility, and community development goals. It will also provide positive impacts for rapid transit, commuter rail, buses, automobiles, pedestrians, cyclist, and freight rail traffic. Furthermore, it is expected to improve connections to jobs, education institutions, and other regional services.

UPRR enjoys a positive partnership with the villages and looks forward to working with them on this project if they are awarded a 2015 TIGER Grant. Furthermore, we look forward to continue working with the parties involved to ensure the plans follow UPRR's engineering standards requirements and provide a safe stairway for our employees. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Kush
Vice President, Public Affairs
Northern Region





Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606
312-454-0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

May 14, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation,
Office of the Secretary
West Building—1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

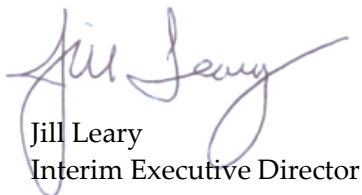
Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), I am writing to support the TIGER grant application from the villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement project. Our hope is that TIGER will provide funding to this worthy project, which will create local and regional mobility improvements that are paramount to economic, mobility, and community development goals of Western Cook County for the 21st Century.

While enhancing regional mobility, access to jobs, and economic competitiveness, this project will have positive impacts for (1) rapid transit, (2) commuter rail, (3) bus, (4) automobile, (5) pedestrian, (6) bicycle, and (7) freight traffic. The improvement of these facilities strengthens connections to jobs, education institutions, and other regional services.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this TIGER application.

Sincerely,



Jill Leary
Interim Executive Director

TG:JL/stk

Board Members

Gerald Bennett, Chair
Rita Athas
Frank Beal
Elliott Hartstein
Al Larson
Lisa Laws
Andrew Madigan
John Noak
Rick Reinbold
William Rodeghier
Carolyn Schofield
Peter Silvestri
Rae Rupp Srch
Thomas Weisner

Non-voting Members

Sean McCarthy
Brian Oszakiewski
Leanne Redden

Interim Executive Director

Jill Leary

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my support for the Illinois villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park and their TIGER grant application for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Project.

The current bridge is functionally obsolete, deteriorated, and in need of replacement. This timeworn bridge currently serves freight rail, METRA commuter rail, CTA heavy rail, thousands of vehicles and trucks daily, and countless pedestrians. It is undoubtedly an important multi-modal infrastructure to the region. There are several parts of this project, all of which directly benefit the three villages and their residents by creating much-needed local and regional mobility improvements. The bridge project will positively impact rapid transit, commuter rail, and freight traffic, in addition to travel by bus, automobile, freight, bicycle, and foot.

The Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Project is vital to the economic success of the villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park. This project will enhance regional mobility, improve access to jobs, and generate economic competitiveness. Therefore I urge the US Department of Transportation to give the villages' of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park and their application the most serious consideration.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

RJD/dl

DANNY K. DAVIS
7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2159 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5006

CHICAGO DISTRICT OFFICE:
3333 WEST ARTHINGTON STREET
SUITE 130
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624
(773) 533-7520

BROADVIEW DISTRICT OFFICE:
2301 ROOSEVELT ROAD
BROADVIEW, ILLINOIS 60155
(708) 345-6857

www.davis.house.gov

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1307

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT

INCOME SECURITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:
FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS,
AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES

May 29, 2015

Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

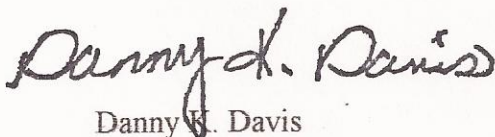
Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please accept this communiqué as a letter of enthusiastic support for the joint application of the Villages of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park, Illinois for a FY2015 TIGER program grant to implement the Harlem Avenue Multimodel Bridge Replacement project.

The project will have a very significant impact on these communities in rapid transit, commuter rail, bus, automotive, pedestrian, bicycle and freight traffic. It will enhance mobility, improve access to jobs and educational institutions and promote economic competitiveness. The project fits well with the economic, mobility and community development goals of West Cook County for the 21st Century.

I trust the application will receive all due consideration.

Sincerely,



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

DKD:ls

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

CONSTITUENT SERVICE OFFICE

6933 W. NORTH AVENUE
OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60302
PHONE: (708) 848-2002
FAX: (708) 848-2022

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

329 CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: (217) 782-8176
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DHARMON@SENATEDEM-ILGA-GOV
WWW-DONHARMON-ORG



COMMITTEES:
EXECUTIVE - CHAIRMAN
ASSIGNMENTS - VICE-CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

SENATOR DON HARMON

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

39TH DISTRICT

May 18, 2015

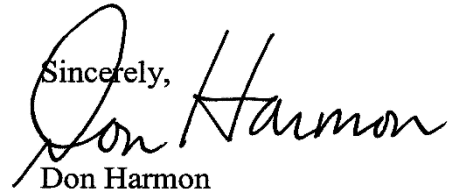
The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in support of the 2015 TIGER Grant application submitted by the Villages of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park, Illinois, for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement project. If received, these funds will be dedicated to replacing the existing overpass bridge over Harlem Avenue, a principal arterial for western suburbs of Chicago.

Originally constructed in 1911, the current bridge configuration leads to congestion and inefficiencies for existing traffic patterns, and restricts access through the commercial corridors on the north and south sides of the intersection. Pedestrian facilities at the site are not ADA compliant and deteriorating sidewalks discourage pedestrian activity. To address these problems, the proposed project includes the removal of the center and curblin columns. The roadway will also be widened to accommodate two 10-foot travel lanes in each direction, plus a new left turning lane. Pavements will be lowered to achieve a vertical clearance under the bridge of 14 feet, 9 inches. Intersection improvements will allow for increased capacity and safer operations for vehicles, pedestrians, buses, and trucks, which will enhance access to jobs, educational institutions and commercial districts. Total project cost is estimated at \$24 million. Project proponents are requesting a \$19.2 million TIGER grant to supplement a combined local match of \$4.8 million.

Please accept this letter in support of the TIGER application submitted by these communities. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Harmon

CHICAGO OFFICE
4800 W. CHICAGO AVE.
CHICAGO, IL 60651
773.378.5902 OFFICE
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repford@lashawnford.com



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La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
8th District

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am happy to write this letter in support of the grant application for the villages of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park, Illinois for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement Project. We hope that the FY 2015 TIGER program will provide funding for this project, as it will create local and regional mobility improvements paramount to the economic, mobility and community development goals of Western Cook County, Illinois, for the 21st Century.

This project will have positive impacts for: 1) rapid transit; 2) commuter rail; 3) bus; 4) automobile; 5) pedestrian; 6) bicycle; 7) freight train traffic; enhancing regional mobility, access to jobs, and economic competitiveness. The improvement of these facilities improves connections to jobs, educational institutions and other regional services.

As one of the state Representatives serving the Harlem Avenue bridge area, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Ford".

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative – Eighth District

Cc: Anan Abu-Taleb, Village President, Village of Oak Park
Catherine Adduci, Village President, Village of River Forest
Anthony Calderone, Mayor, Village of Forest Park



Daniel J. McLaughlin
Mayor, Village of Orland Park
Executive Board Chairman

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor, City of Chicago
Executive Board Vice Chairman

Jim Holland
Mayor, Village of Frankfort
Executive Board Secretary

May 15, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: *Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement TIGER Grant Application*

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please find this letter in support of the grant application from Villages of Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement project. It is our hope that the FY 2015 TIGER program will provide funding to this project as it will create local and regional mobility improvements paramount to economic, mobility, and community development goals of Western Cook County for the 21st Century.

This project will have positive impacts for (1) rapid transit, (2) commuter rail, (3) bus, (4) automobile, (5) pedestrian, (6) bicycle, and (7) freight traffic enhancing regional mobility, access to jobs, and economic competitiveness. The improvement of these facilities improves connections to jobs, education institutions and other regional services.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David E. Bennett'.

David E. Bennett
Executive Director

**City of Chicago · DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference · Lake County Municipal League · McHenry County Council of Governments
Metro West Council of Governments · Northwest Municipal Conference · South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Southwest Conference of Mayors · West Central Municipal Conference · Will County Governmental League**

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www.mayorscaucus.org



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May 15, 2015

Mr. Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please find this letter in support of the grant application from Villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement project. It is our hope that FY 2015 TIGER program will provide funding to this project as it will create local and regional mobility improvements paramount to economic, mobility, and community development goals of Western Cook County for the 21st Century.

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On behalf of Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Yen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cathy Yen
Executive Director
OPRF Chamber of Commerce



Sarah Gulseth, President, Pleasant District Association
C/O West Cook YMCA
255 S. Marion St., Oak Park, IL 60302
May 15, 2015

Mr. Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please find this letter in support of the grant application from Villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement project. It is our hope that FY 2015 TIGER program will provide funding to this project as it will create local and regional mobility improvements paramount to economic, mobility, and community development goals of Western Cook County for the 21st Century.

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On behalf of the Pleasant District Association, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Gulseth". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sarah Gulseth
President, Pleasant District Association