

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2009

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

RE: Delaware Department of Transportation-- Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing to express our strong support for two grant applications from the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)* program. DelDOT is proposing the rehabilitation of the Interstate 95 and Route 1 interchange in New Castle County, Delaware, and the toll facilities at Interstate 95 at the Delaware/Maryland border.

We believe that current conditions at the interchange of Interstate 95 and Rt. 1 have reached a critical point; therefore TIGER grant funding would do a great deal to benefit the thousands of people who depend on this corridor. Interstate 95 stretches for 11 miles through the State of Delaware and serves over 110,000 vehicles per day during its peak period. The interchange serves as a junction between Interstate 95, one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the nation, and State Route 1-- a vital highway serving the Delmarva Peninsula. DelDOT is proposing improvements to the existing interchange that will result in numerous benefits that include significantly reducing severe congestion, improving safety, and increasing accessibility to existing and proposed commuter rail and bus transit services.

DelDOT is also requesting your assistance to improve toll facilities at the border crossing between Maryland and Delaware on Interstate 95. The current configuration of cash lanes and low-speed E-ZPass lanes result in frequent congestion and long delays for all plaza users. To address this issue, DelDOT would like to replace the existing toll booths with high-speed E-ZPass technology and reconfigure lanes. This would ultimately alleviate delays, improve safety, decrease the harmful environmental impacts of idling cars, and reduce congestion in one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the country.

Once again, we would like to offer our strong support of DelDOT's TIGER proposals. We appreciate your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, we can be reached through our respective staff members: Senator Carper through Mr. Garth Spencer at (302) 573-6291, Senator Kaufman through Ms. Latisha Bracy at (302) 573-6345 and Congressman Castle through Ms. Erin Innes at (302) 428-1902.

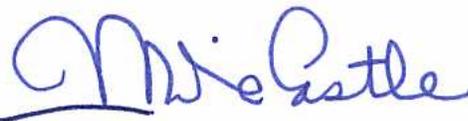
Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Edward E. Kaufman
United States Senator



Michael N. Castle
Member of Congress