

DESTINATION ALBERT LEA

Working for your future ... by preserving our past.

July 30, 2010

Mr. James Norman, City Manager
City of Albert Lea
211 E. Clark Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Dear Jim:

Both **Destination Albert Lea** and the **Albert Lea Downtown Association** are pleased to provide this letter of support for street improvement and streetscape initiatives provided as part of the TIGER II Grant Program.

In the Fall of 2008, Albert Lea was selected as the first project city for the Blue Zones Vitality Project. The project began in January, 2009. As part of that project, we were honored in having an international expert (Dan Burden) perform a "Walkability" audit of Albert Lea. A good portion of that audit focused on our historic downtown.

Albert Lea has had the foresight to retain a very talented historic architect/planner for the last several years who has been instrumental in our revitalization efforts of the downtown. Suggestions from the audit as well as feedback by downtown business owners and key employers within the community have successfully been integrated into a new streetscape plan. Once the plan is executed, we can count on having safer sidewalks, improved pedestrian traffic flow, a welcoming landscape as well as a friendlier, more community-centric design.

We fully support Albert Lea's application for this grant and are excited about the opportunities the TIGER II grant will bring to our beautiful, historic downtown. Feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Tami Staker, President
Destination Albert Lea
Albert Lea Downtown Association