



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

August 23, 2010

Mr. Ray LaHood
U.S. Transportation Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

This letter expresses support the TIGER II Discretionary Grant proposal, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation, submitted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). Please accept this letter of support from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for Mn/DOT's proposal to invest in a more sustainable, multi-modal transportation system in communities across the state and learn what opportunities there are for continuing to improve accessibility for non-motorized transportation.

Mn/DOT has been and is a leader for states across the country by supporting statewide Complete Streets legislation in May 2010. Currently, MDH supports Complete Streets policies as a strategy to promote physical activity and decrease the prevalence of obesity through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). Local communities are encouraged to implement policies and practices that create active communities by increasing opportunities for non-motorized transportation. The TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program will further promote and increase these opportunities, and MDH looks forward to collaborating closely with Mn/DOT on these projects.

We anticipate any lessons learned regarding the implementation of Complete Streets projects across Minnesota will inform how future road projects accommodate multiple users, not only for the seven identified projects, but for SHIP communities across the state, particularly if they are working on Active Community interventions.

MDH values a long-standing relationship with the Mn/DOT and looks forward to collaborating with them more closely to increase opportunities for physical activity throughout the state and improve overall livability and sustainability through the integration of Complete Streets for those in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara McNulty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cara McNulty
Director of the Office of Statewide Health Improvement Initiatives