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John A. Coleman
Executive Director

November 7, 2011

Secretary Ray LaHood
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Support for the City of Oakland's TIGER III Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the City of Oakland's TIGER III grant application to convert the decaying former Oakland Army Base into a thriving Trade and Logistics Center.

It has been more than 10 years since the Oakland Army Base was decommissioned and is way past due for economic redevelopment. There is a solid team and master plan in place to secure the private and public resources needed to install new infrastructure and prepare the site for commercial development. The TIGER III grant application has the potential to trigger the alignment of more than \$400,000,000 in local, state, federal and private funds to develop over 300 acres of prime property adjacent to the Port of Oakland.

With the potential of 3,000 jobs, enhanced intermodal capacity for the Port, substantial emissions reduction due to expanded use of rail, and substantially increasing the economic competitiveness of the Port are compelling. Thousands of construction and permanent job opportunities for a community experiencing an unemployment rate of 17% is exciting. Cleaning the air for the surrounding community and mitigating the decaying and wasteful infrastructure currently serving the site is essential. Tens of millions of dollars in contracting opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises will stimulate the economy of a city that is suffering from the recession impacting the State of California and nearly all local governmental agencies.

Again, I am proud to convey my support for the Oakland Global Trade and Logistics project and the City's TIGER III application.

Sincerely,



John A. Coleman
Executive Director

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Executive Director