



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

June 1, 2015

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

Re: Applicant – County of Kauai
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant

I am informed that the County of Kauai is applying for a TIGER grant award for its Lihue Town Core Mobility and Revitalization Project. Please accept this letter supporting the County of Kauai's application for TIGER funding for this project.

It is my understanding that TIGER Grants provide funding grants to public entities that are not normally entitled to Federal DOT capital funding. Additionally, TIGER Grants allow for inter alia, road, bicycle/pedestrian, and multi-modal projects that “achieve critical national objectives”, including projects that provide exceptional benefits for rural areas.

In the instant case, the island of Kauai is primarily rural except for its county seat of Lihue. Lihue is the transportation hub of the island, where the primary airport, primary shipping port, two major highways and bus transit system converge. Moving out from Lihue, most of the remaining island is connected by a two lane highway that stretches out to the end of the road to the west and to the end of the road to the north.

At the time most of the primary roadways in Lihue were built, vehicular traffic was not problematic on the island. Through the years, with an increase in population, visitors, and vehicular traffic, additional arterial roads were developed, however the core of Lihue town has remained relatively unchanged. This has led to an unsafe clash between vehicles, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, bus transit, and freight traffic in the Lihue town core.

The proposed Lihue Town Core Mobility and Revitalization Project would be a boon to rural Kauai “achieving critical national objectives” of sustainability, reduction of reliance on fossil fuels, and improved connectivity and safety for the residents of Kauai.

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Thank you for your favorable consideration of the County of Kauai's application and if there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with the undersigned.

Sincerely,



RONALD D. KOUCHI

Senate President

8th Senatorial District- Kauai and Niihau