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March 15, 2012

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

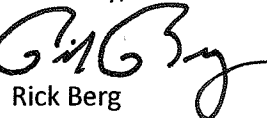
Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing today to urge your approval of the City of Minot's application for federal funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER IV grant in the amount of \$3,650,500 to be split with a 60% federal share and a 40% non-federal share.

Funding for this project is vital to the economic development of the region in support of the tremendous growth activity at the Minot International Airport. This project will create important infrastructure needed to improve the safety of pedestrian, transit, and vehicle service access. This project would also widen and realign the main Airport's access road and is the initial phase of a much larger infrastructure program to build a new airport terminal building, improve access to and egress from airport property, and expand parking infrastructure.

Total passengers have dramatically increased at the Minot International Airport from 144,204 in 2009 to 306,403 in 2011. This is an increase of 112% over two years caused by the regional economic growth of oil activity from the North Dakota Bakken formation and international travelers from Canada. This growth trend is expected to continue and local funding sources are unable to fully finance the entire infrastructure needed to support this expansion project.

As funding applications are evaluated, I hope you will carefully consider this project's many benefits to the Minot community and region and I look forward to providing whatever assistance I can to make the City of Minot's efforts a reality.

Sincerely,  
  
Rick Berg  
Member of Congress