

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 24, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

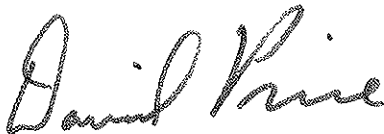
We are writing to express support for the Walker Street Grade Separation proposal submitted by the Town of Cary, North Carolina through the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program.

The Town of Cary has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and increased development, traffic and congestion in the Town Center area are a growing concern for the Town's public safety and quality of life. The Chatham Street/Academy Street and Chatham Street/Harrison Avenue intersections experience significant traffic back-up during peak commuter hours. In addition, between 22 and 26 trains pass through downtown Cary on a daily basis, including both freight trains and Amtrak passenger rail cars. This severely impacts traffic flows and creates further delays and congestion due to the frequency of the trains traveling through the Town's at-grade crossings.

To address these congestion concerns and improve the safety of all transportation users throughout downtown, the Town of Cary intends to extend Walker Street by 0.2 miles and construct a grade-separated crossing under the railroad track and the accompanying railroad bridge. The project will provide the significant safety benefits associated with rail traffic separation, mitigate area-wide congestion, improve emergency vehicle response, and enhance economic re-development in downtown Cary. In addition, the new, extended road will incorporate green infrastructure techniques such as bike lanes, wide pedestrian sidewalks, and stormwater quality treatment devices.

This project has extensive support from state and local authorities as well as private entities such as the impacted rail companies. We hope that the Department will give the Town of Cary's proposal all due consideration.

Sincerely,



David Price
Member of Congress



Brad Miller
Member of Congress