

MICHAEL A. ARCURI  
24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3224**

September 10, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
800 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the application submitted by the City of Auburn, New York, for funding through the TIGER II Planning Grants program. The application seeks \$1,935,000 for the planning, design and engineering of a 6-mile riverfront multi-use trail along the Owasco River.

Located in Cayuga County, the City of Auburn is situated in the heart of New York's Finger Lakes Region. The Owasco River, which literally bisects the heart of Auburn's downtown, connects the City to Owasco Lake. In addition to providing tourism and recreation opportunities, Owasco Lake also supplies drinking water for 76 percent of the County's population, including the City of Auburn.

Funding for this project would allow the City of Auburn, in collaboration with its State and local partners, to create a direct, non-motorized link between downtown Auburn and Owasco Lake, one of the Finger Lakes. Emerson Park, the trail's intended terminus, is home to Auburn Little League baseball and the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, both of which provide Auburn and Cayuga County residents with a unique family gathering location, as well as other social and cultural opportunities. This multi-modal trail will make the entire region more livable, facilitate economic development on Main Street and preserve environmental green space along the City's primary natural resource, the Owasco River. In addition, this multi-modal corridor directly supports New York State Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning goals, as well as local transportation and sustainability initiatives in the City's newly adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to indicate my support for this worthy and deserving request. Please direct any follow-up on this issue to my Auburn district office.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL A. ARCURI  
Member of Congress