

GERALD E. CONNOLLY

11TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

424 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-1492

FAIRFAX OFFICE:

4115 ANNANDALE ROAD

SUITE 103

ANNANDALE, VA 22003

(703) 256-3071

PRINCE WILLIAM OFFICE:

4308 RIDGEWOOD CENTER DRIVE

WOODBIDGE, VA 22192

(703) 670-4989

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4611

December 19, 2011

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER, TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION  
POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND  
PROCUREMENT REFORM

FEDERAL WORKFORCE, US POSTAL SERVICE,  
AND LABOR POLICY

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, EFFICIENCY  
AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Mr. Victor Mendez  
Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Mendez,

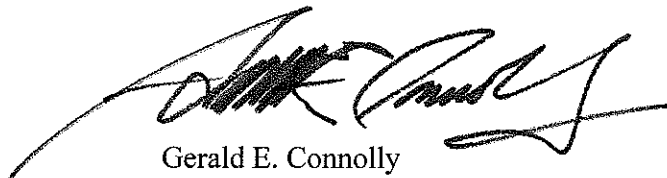
Thank you for your continued service to our nation. I appreciate the work you and your agency are performing and Northern Virginia, and other regions throughout the nation, to provide new transportation choices for commuters and create jobs in our communities.

I write today to express my strong support for an FY 2012 Discretionary Grant Program application from the Town of Vienna, Va. This proposal would close missing links in the town's pedestrian and bicycle networks, allowing residents of neighborhoods to walk or bicycle to businesses located along Maple Avenue/Route 123, which is Vienna's main street. Vienna is one of the older towns in Fairfax County, and many of its roads were built prior to modern requirements for sidewalks. As a result, it is unsafe and inconvenient for individuals to walk to Maple Avenue from residential neighborhoods just a few blocks away due to a lack of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

In partnership with Fairfax County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Town of Vienna already has worked to improve its pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure by installing new bike lanes, bike racks, and a new pedestrian/bicycle accessible town green. This FHWA grant would close short but critical missing links in the town's pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure, consistent with the Department of Transportation's laudable efforts to develop multimodal transportation networks. These improvements are of particular importance because Maple Avenue experiences severe congestion on a daily basis, and any pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure improvements are likely to be well utilized and relieve congestion. In addition, these improvements will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ground level ozone (smog) in a federally-designated non-attainment area, improving residents' quality of life while reducing asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases.

I respectfully request you give this application all fair and appropriate consideration in accordance with applicable federal policies and laws. Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress  
11<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia

GC/ZF