

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

June 3, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I write in support of the application submitted by the City of Ithaca for funding from the TIGER VI Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding will allow for a transformation of key transit routes and improve system reliability throughout the City of Ithaca.

The City of Ithaca is located on the southern end of Cayuga Lake, in Tomkins County NY. It is the geographic center of the County, and is the base of employment for the region's major employers, including Cornell University and Ithaca College. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ithaca ranked 7th across the country in 2010 for residents who take public transportation to work. More than 10 percent of Ithaca's population depends on bus transit to make their daily commute, compared with 5 percent nationally. In addition, 2.2 percent of residents bike to work compared to 0.6 percent nationally. Given the scale of Ithaca's dependence on public transportation and non-vehicular modes of travel, it is essential that the City's transportation system respond to increasing demands.

The requested funding will be used to enhance and upgrade the vital transit corridors between the downtown Commons and key nodes including Cornell University/College town. Specifically, these upgrades will include the construction of bus terminal and shelter facilities, dedicated rapid bus transit lanes, and queue jumper and signal preemption technologies. Additionally, Ithaca seeks to integrate intelligent transportation systems (ITS) into their transit operations, including live, web-based bus locator maps, real-time passenger information systems and smartphone applications for TCAT passengers. These improvements and additions would result in tremendous municipal and regional benefits in the transit system and overall economy.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Andrew Usyk at (202) 244-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator