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March 9, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: Support for the Port of Stockton's TIGER 2012 Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of Bay Planning Coalition, I am pleased to offer my support for the Port of Stockton TIGER 2012 grant application for the M-580 Marine Highway Corridor Expansion Project.

The M-580 Marine Highway Corridor Expansion Project will enhance an existing Marine Highway project being funded by a previous Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant through the Maritime Administration and the Department of Transportation. This \$13 million grant is currently being utilized at the Port of Stockton to move cargo by barge between the Port of Oakland and Stockton, CA. Utilization of a barge system greatly reduces heavy duty diesel truck usage in transporting cargo between the Port of Oakland and Stockton, CA. This project will allow the Port of Stockton to unload and transport cargo much more efficiently by filling containers to maximum capacity and extending rail into and out of the Port. The Union Pacific and BNSF Railroads are also supporting this project.

The Port of Stockton and California's central valley is a popular location for warehousing, distribution, and related logistics businesses. Creating rail links, strengthened roads, and a container yard in conjunction with the existing Marine Highway project will allow these important functions to continue, but in a more cost effective and environmentally responsible manner by reducing the impacts of transportation on the environment, reducing the need for costly future investments in public infrastructure, providing efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade, and identifying strategies to encourage private sector development.

Again, I am pleased to convey my support for this application and ask that you give it your full consideration under the TIGER 2012 grant competition.

Sincerely,



John A. Coleman
Executive Director

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