



CITY OF FITCHBURG
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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LISA A. WONG
MAYOR

September 4, 2009

Richard Doyle
Regional Administrator
FTA
55 Broadway - Suite 904
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. Doyle:

On behalf of the City of Fitchburg, the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) is submitting a \$65.5 million Federal TIGER Discretionary Grant application for the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Extension to the State Route 2/31 (231) Industrial Park and the creation of a layover facility in the town of Westminster about one mile west of the proposed new station. The project will benefit commuters travelling from west of the Fitchburg/Leominster area to the existing commuter rail service to Boston. It also enhance the rail freight operations in our region as a whole, as well as specifically supporting and enhancing the rail freight requirements of industries at the 231 Industrial Park in Fitchburg. The project is submitted for USDOT consideration by MART which represents the city as its member. It is my understanding the MBTA, who operates the current Boston to Fitchburg commuter rail operation, will be responsible for the operation of this extension and they will also benefit by having an updated layover facility that can accommodate six or more train sets. The MBTA will be able to replace its current outdated layover facility in Fitchburg with the proposed new facility in Westminster which will increase the frequency of service to Boston and establish a reverse commuting operation for the region.

I would request your immediate consideration for this discretionary TIGER Grant, not only will the City of Fitchburg benefit but the surrounding communities in the region will benefit from the increased commuter rail services and the increase in available commuter parking facilities in the region.

The project has gone through local environmental review and the Fitchburg Conservation Commission has approved the project. The project can be constructed and operational within the two year timeframe of the Tiger funding requirement.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wong
Mayor of Fitchburg

cc: Governor Deval Patrick
Congressman John Olver – Massachusetts First Congressional District
Secretary James Aloisi, Massachusetts EOT-PW
Mayor Dean Mazarella - Leominster, MART Advisory Board Chmn.
Mayor Mark Hawke, City of Gardner
Chairman, Westminster Board of Selectmen
Mohammed Khan, MART Administrator