



September 8, 2009

City of Annapolis
Ellen O. Moyer
Mayor

Anne Arundel County
John R. Leopold
County Executive

City of Baltimore
Sheila Dixon
Mayor

Baltimore County
James T. Smith, Jr.
County Executive

Carroll County
Dean L. Minnich
Member, Board of Commissioners

Harford County
David R. Craig
County Executive

Howard County
Ken Ulman
County Executive

Maryland Department of
Transportation
Beverley Swaim-Staley
Acting Secretary

Maryland Department of the
Environment
Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Maryland Department of Planning
Richard E. Hall
Secretary

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the metropolitan planning organization for the Baltimore region, is in strong support of the Westport Waterfront transit-oriented development project grant application pursuant to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary grant program. The Westport Waterfront development project is the most ambitious and comprehensive waterfront redevelopment project to take place in Baltimore City since the creation of the internationally acclaimed Inner Harbor. This \$1.4 billion transit-oriented development will bring much needed economic stimulus to the Baltimore area, generating more than 15,000 jobs, 2,000 market rate and affordable housing units and 2.5 million square feet of office space. The Westport Waterfront represents a unique opportunity to directly impact an Economically Distressed Area (EDA) with the creation of long term permanent jobs, long term transportation and infrastructure improvements and long term sustainable quality of life enhancements.

The awarding of the TIGER funds to the project will leverage more than \$149 million of immediate transportation and infrastructure improvements which will directly enhance the existing transportation system by improving safety, increasing access to transportation modes, and creating a more connected and sustainable environment. The project and the TIGER application are consistent with the policy goals of the region's Long-range Transportation Plan, *Outlook 2035*. Should a TIGER grant be awarded to the project, the BRTB is committed to adding the project to *Outlook 2035*, in order to meet federal planning requirements.

The BRTB appreciates the continued efforts to accommodate the ever-changing mobility and economic growth needs of the Baltimore region.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Johnson, Empowered Chair
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

cc: BRTB Members

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