



Crawford County Road Commission

Donald A. Babcock, Managing Director

June 6, 2015

Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Regarding; Crawford County Road Commission's TIGER 2014 application.

Dear Secretary Foxx;

Please accept this letter as an Introduction and Support for the Crawford County Road Commission's TIGER 2014 grant application.

I would like to thank yourself and your staff for the prompt review of our previous applications and also for the informative debriefing by your staff regarding same.

The Crawford County Road Commission's TIGER-2014 application is for a road and bridge rehabilitation project which upgrades the existing I-75/North Down River Road interchange from half to full access.

The improvements offered by this project will provide the links for a commercial corridor, complete multimodal connections serving downtown Grayling, direct access to Grayling Mercy Hospital, emergency response facilities, Michigan National Guard Training Base "Camp Grayling" and a proposed public/private commercial rail siding.

One of the criteria considered in the grant application is "Livability". Imagine Military convoys, commercial log trucks, Oil Tankers, mixed with tourist and everyday traffic. All in a small town with a population of 1,900, it is an unpleasant picture. Traffic jams immobilize our existing transportation system to the point of failure. It is not uncommon for traffic to be stopped and backed up to the point that a hazard exists for traffic exiting off I-75 into the City of Grayling.

Crawford County is both blessed and cursed to have the Michigan National Guard Base "Camp Grayling" located within its boundaries. 74% of Crawford County is owned by the State of Michigan, Federal Forest Service or the Department of Military affairs.

Crawford County has a very low tax base, one of the lowest in the state of Michigan. Our community is very rural and is economically distressed. The job creation during construction would be an enormous boost to the existing economy in our region, let alone the future business impact that this project would enhance; by providing a transportation

500 Huron Street • Grayling, Michigan 49738
Phone: (989) 348-2281 • Fax: (989) 348-6933

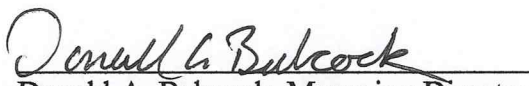
corridor to a region of property that has been stagnated to growth due to an existing ½ interchange.

All project partners have been very active in the planning and procuring of funds to complete the grant application. To date, the project partners have contributed over \$200,000.00 to provide engineering and the environmental assessment study that is necessary to be considered for an award.

Not only have the project partners dedicated funds to complete the application, but funds have also been committed to match the construction of the project. The Crawford County Road Commission has dedicated \$100,000.00 of matching funds for the project. And Property owners are donating land for right of way.

I can not stress to you how difficult it is to for our project partners to commit these funds. But the importance of this project to our community is monumental.

Sincerely;


Donald A. Babcock, Managing Director
Crawford County Road Commission

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Crawford County Board of Road Commissioners
TIGER 2015 grant application