



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

June 19, 2013

The Honorable Mark Mallory
Mayor of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Mayor Mallory:

Thank you for your letter regarding funding for the Cincinnati Streetcar project. Over the last 5 years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has been your partner in advancing this modern streetcar project to benefit the citizens and businesses of the city of Cincinnati. The DOT thus far has committed a total of nearly \$40 million to this project through our Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program, the Federal Transit Administration's Urban Circulator program, and the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

In recent weeks, we have learned that construction bids for the project have come in higher than expected. While this is not entirely unusual, we recognize that the city must now find additional resources to bring the project to completion and operation.

The DOT continues to support your bold vision for economic development and enhanced transportation choices for the city of Cincinnati, and we believe that this project is a significant component of that vision. With that in mind, I want to provide up to \$5 million in additional assistance from DOT.

The availability of this assistance is entirely dependent on the city fulfilling all of the conditions listed below:

- Construct the full scope of the project, including length, number of stations, and station shelters as identified in Grant OH-790002, and associated National Environmental Policy Act documents.
- Restore the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and passenger information system, which was reduced as a cost-saving measure, to better ensure the safety of the riding public.
- Restore to the project a screen or wall that the State Historic Preservation Office requested be erected to shield the power substations from public view.
- In addition to restoring the scope reductions above, the City Council must identify no less than \$17.4 million in non-Federal funds to cover additional project costs.

The Honorable Mark Mallory

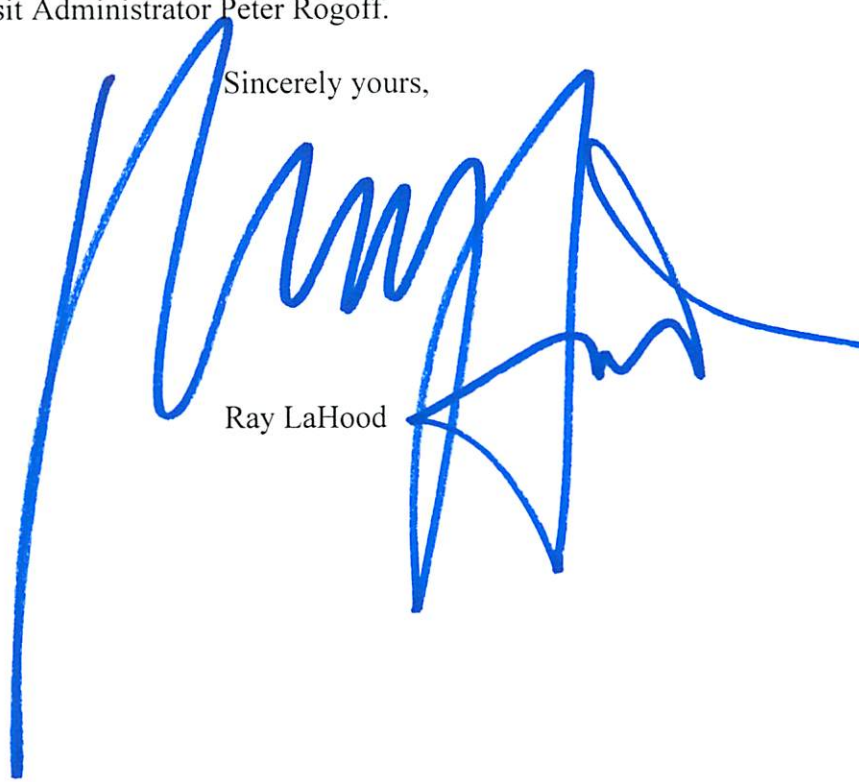
I hope that this offer of additional assistance serves to encourage you and the city of Cincinnati's leadership as you work together to take action to ensure that the project is completed in a safe and timely manner.

Beyond this \$5 million, DOT is not able to offer any additional discretionary funding for this project. In addition, absent the satisfactory deployment of the project, DOT will be required to deobligate both the existing \$10.9 million TIGER grant and the \$25 million in Urban Circulator program funds. However, the \$4 million in CMAQ funding for the Cincinnati area would be available to the region to reprogram in support of eligible projects.

If I can provide further information, please feel free to contact me, Deputy Secretary John D. Porcari, or Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Ray LaHood, is written over the signature line and extends downwards. The signature is composed of several loops and a long, sweeping vertical stroke on the left side.