

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CO-CHAIR

HOUSE GREAT LAKES
TASK FORCE

MEMBER

MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2215

October 11, 2010

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
ROOM 2328
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2215
(202) 225-4071

DISTRICT OFFICES:
19855 WEST OUTER DRIVE
SUITE 103-E
DEARBORN, MI 48124
(313) 278-2936

23 EAST FRONT STREET
SUITE 103
MONROE, MI 48161
(734) 243-1849

301 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 305
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
(734) 481-1100

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable John Porcari
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood and Deputy Secretary Porcari:

I write to you with regards to a matter of great importance to me, the 15th District and the State of Michigan – the TIGER II Application submitted by the City of Ann Arbor for the East Stadium Boulevard Bridges.

As you well know, these bridges are in critical condition, with the bridge crossing at S. State Street having a Federal Sufficiency Rating of 2 out of a 100 point scale. Traffic in this critical corridor has been reduced from four-lanes to two, with strict weight limits for the 48,000 vehicles that travel this area each day. Without investment and repair, this corridor will be closed to thru traffic isolating the University of Michigan (U-M) and Ann Arbor residents from the rest of the region.

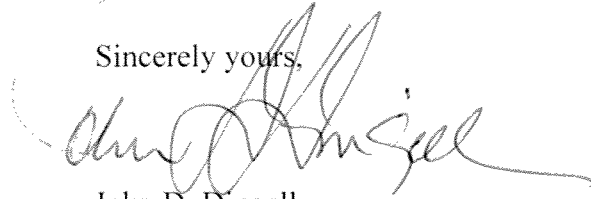
It is no surprise that Michigan's economy has suffered mightily during this recession. We have been faced with the downsizing of the lifeblood of Southeast Michigan – the auto industry – and now are looking to attract new industries to our great state. No community has done a better job of this than the City of Ann Arbor and the U-M. U-M serves as a leader in higher education, with an unparalleled health system, and a new state-of-the-art research campus at the former Pfizer research facility. The research generated at the University has resulted in 50 new companies in the region, with more to come, and has encouraged business development in the areas of automotive engineering, health care, and scientific development. Last year alone the research expenditures from the University exceeded \$1 billion. This is not to mention U-M's critical role in the University Research Corridor, which with the assistance of Michigan State University and Wayne State University, has contributed \$14.8 billion in economic stimulus to Michigan since 2007.

Therefore, you can understand why closing or obstructing access to Ann Arbor and U-M would be severely detrimental to one of the strongest and most successful parts of Michigan's economy. I have recently received correspondence from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the City of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, and the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce that I believe may be of value to you as you begin the painstaking process of review the TIGER II Discretionary Grant applications. I strongly support federal investment in this worthy project, and I hope this information will be of use in your review.

Once again, I hope that you understand the great need for this investment, and I look forward to working with you on this project. As always, should you or your staff need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kimberlee Trzeciak of my staff at kimberlee.trzeciak@mail.house.gov.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", written over a faint circular stamp.

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

Encl: Letter from Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce
Letter from City of Ann Arbor
Letter from Michigan Economic Development Corporation