



A2YChamber
ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER

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October 8, 2010

The Honorable John D. Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

I am writing to request an update with regard to the City of Ann Arbor's TIGER II Discretionary Grant application for federal funding for replacement of the Ann Arbor East Stadium Boulevard bridges. In so doing, I would again like to stress the importance of these bridges to our area's system of roadways and by extension commerce and economy.

These bridges service approximately 28,000 vehicle trips per day. They are an essential component of Stadium Boulevard, which is the only east / west arterial roadway spanning Ann Arbor's 27 square miles. Businesses, customers, employees, visitors, tourists, students and residents alike all depend upon these bridges to serve their daily needs.

In the heart of Ann Arbor, and spanning a railway and arterial street, the Stadium bridges afford our area substantial connectivity, linking east and west Ann Arbor as well as our several surrounding highways. Moreover, the bridges service our area's visitor magnet – the University of Michigan's athletic campus, which includes Michigan Stadium, Crisler Arena and the U-M Golf Course. Nearby Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, one of the state's largest, relies heavily upon these bridges as well.

Throughout Michigan's economic malaise, Ann Arbor has been one of the state's few bright spots. This is, in large part, due to the University, its research and development activities, business spin-offs, associated job creation, as well as our region's focus on economic development, business incubation and support services, and overall entrepreneurial atmosphere. Suffice it to say that a healthy Ann Arbor area is key to a reinvigorated Michigan, and that these bridges are key to the Ann Arbor area's continued health.

In closing, please know that there is strong, broad-based community support for Ann Arbor receiving a TIGER II Discretionary grant. These monies working toward the bridges' replacement are critical to the region's economy.

If I or my staff can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Diane Keller, President & CEO
Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber