



TONY STAMAS

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIR, HIGHER EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

COMMERCE AND TOURISM

July 10, 2009

TIGER Discretionary Grant
United States Department of Transportation

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you today in support of the I-75 Crossing Task Force and its application to the United States Department of Transportation for an estimated \$27 million TIGER Discretionary Grant.

Otsego County and Northern Michigan have experienced extensive growth and development, leading to increased traffic and congestion on M-32 at I-75 in the City of Gaylord. Several studies have been completed, bringing with them recommendations of ways to address the congestion issues and their negative impact on the existing infrastructure, local development efforts, environment, quality of life, and most importantly, safety.

The Michigan Department of Transportation, in conjunction with local leaders, has begun to make substantial progress towards meeting the recommendations made by the aforementioned studies through such efforts as coordinated use planning, construction of a new east-west crossing of I-75, access management, and improvement of four of the ten road segments outlined in the recommendations of the studies.

Despite their efforts, the goal of meeting and exceeding the recommendations of these studies is a lofty one. With Michigan's current economic climate making it increasingly difficult to receive funding for projects such as this in a timely fashion, the I-75 Crossing Task Force is applying for assistance in this matter from the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Discretionary Grant Program.

Upon reception of this grant, the Task Force would be able to continue to work toward the recommendations outlined in the studies, such as the construction of a second I-75 crossing, access management, improvements to the remaining six of the ten identified road segments and a new state-of-the-art signal light timing system in an effort to increase vehicular and pedestrian safety.

The Otsego County Road Commission and the City of Gaylord are jointly applying for funding from the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program in an effort to implement the long-term improvements recommended by the studies of the congestion and road usage in the area in order to improve the safety and well-being of those who travel through and live in the City of Gaylord and Otsego County. These improvements to the Gaylord/I-75 Corridor would also provide economic benefits by supporting the attraction, expansion and retention of high-wage jobs to the

area, as well as increasing business presence. Along with these economic improvements, the quality of life of residents and visitors to the Gaylord Area would be improved, and travel along the Gaylord/I-75 Corridor would be considerably safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

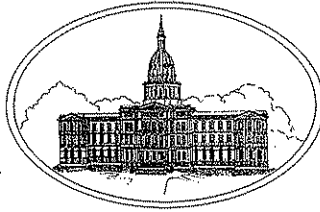
I thank you for your consideration of this matter, and would like to reiterate my support for the application by the I-75 Crossing Task Force and to the United States Department of Transportation TIGER Discretionary Grant Program. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TS'.

TONY STAMAS
Senator, 36th District

TS/kjc



MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

KEVIN A. ELSENHEIMER

HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

July 10, 2009

Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my support for a grant application submitted by The City of Gaylord and the Otsego County Road Commission. Your attention to this matter and consideration of my support is appreciated.

The City of Gaylord and the Otsego County Road Commission have conveyed a need to improve the overall transportation infrastructure serving the Gaylord/I-75 Corridor. The area has seen a substantial increase in traffic congestion in the area and needs to be adjusted to accommodate the rapid growth and development of the region. This project will benefit the area both economically by providing jobs, as well as adding to the public safety during transportation through the area.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have questions regarding this application and grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin A. Elsenheimer'.

Kevin A. Elsenheimer
State Representative
105th House District