

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:


I am writing to express my strong support for the TIGER II application submitted by the Town of Plaistow in cooperation with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) that would extend existing commuter rail service from Haverhill, Massachusetts to Plaistow, New Hampshire. This \$17 million grant will bring an MBTA transfer station to Plaistow and extend MBTA commuter rail service to Southern New Hampshire.

The Town of Plaistow is situated directly on the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border and 60 percent of the town's workforce commutes into Massachusetts each day making Plaistow an ideal location for a commuter rail station into Massachusetts. Plaistow also has existing tracks that are capable of handling high speed rail traffic and the proposed location of the rail station is adjacent to an existing park and ride. Funds from the proposed grant will be used to construct the new layover facility in close proximity to the proposed rail station, purchase coaches and to cover other expenses associated with the expansion.

Expanding existing MBTA rail service into Plaistow will give daily commuters an alternative to driving, provide environmental and economic benefits to the Town of Plaistow and the State of New Hampshire and give southern New Hampshire residents access to MBTA's entire rail network. By providing commuters with a rail option, the Town of Plaistow will reduce vehicles commuting on one of the State's busiest highways and cut down on air and noise pollution caused by the heavy traffic. The rail service extension will also bring more visitors to the town center which is adjacent to the proposed train station.

I fully support the City of Plaistow's application and I urge your serious consideration of this worthy project. If you have any questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Jen MacLellan, at (202) 224-2841.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator