



Making Connections, Building Community

Chamber of Commerce  
Economic Development  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Downtown Partners, Inc.

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April 29, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Burlington Downtown/Riverfront Revitalization Project – TIGER Funds

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the Greater Burlington, Iowa region, I am writing in support of the Transportations Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant application for City of Burlington Downtown/Riverfront Revitalization Project. Our community recently went through a community-wide futurist visioning process to identify the top values/goals/projects for the future. The process was called *Imagine*, and more than 2,000 local residents participated in that process. Protecting the assets along the riverfront as well as improving the functionality and beauty of our unique riverfront was identified as one of those top five visionary elements for the future.

The City of Burlington has fully engaged in that visionary concept and is going through an all-inclusive effort to create a comprehensive, sustainable downtown community that better integrates economic prosperity, social vibrancy, ecological integrity, and human experiences.

Flood waters continue to plague our city. A series of record floods having been particularly damaging and have cost millions of dollars in property damage, emergency protection cost, clean-up maintenance cost, and lost revenues. The recent \$26.2 million award from the State of Iowa Flood Mitigation Board has enhanced our flood protection efforts. The City now has an opportunity to achieve the visions set out by the *Imagine* process.

These improvements will make the Downtown/Riverfront a destination, spurring more local and regional tourism and economic redevelopment in this area. The Complete Streets, Linear Multi-Use Path Park, and Gathering Area will lead to a more walkable, bikeable, livable, sustainable community.

I fully endorse their TIGER grant application and respectfully request that you give this project your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Hutcheson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Hutcheson, CEcD  
President & CEO