



COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOBOKEN

CITY HALL

94 Washington Street

Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

www.hobokennj.org

RAVINDER S. BHALLA
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May 29, 2015

Mayor Dawn Zimmer
City Hall
94 Washington St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Dear Mayor Zimmer,

I am writing in my capacity as Hoboken City Council President to express my full support for the Washington Street Revitalization Project through the U.S. DOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

The Washington Street Revitalization Project is a model of local government working with the community to help achieve a common good. Between December 2013 and September 2014, the plan was available for public discussion multiple times, allowing diverse groups of residents who will be impacted by this project to come forward and make their voice heard before a final concept was presented on September 23, 2014.

I have thoroughly reviewed the proposed plan for Washington Street, and I know it will boost the lives of so many people – including the 35% of Hoboken residents who do not own a private car. Hoboken's "Main Street" is constantly recognized as a great place not only for New Jersey, but also for America, and an upgrade is long overdue. Washington Street would receive much needed improvements through this plan – such as crosswalk signs and countdowns, replacement water mains for the century old system in place now, and updates need to be made to handle Hoboken's constantly growing population.

This project will also seek to work with our local Homeless Shelter to train and employ residents as the City unrolls its bike-sharing program, which will also receive a boost thanks to this Revitalization Project.

The Revitalization Project will also support the over 50,000 people who call this city home, as well as many stores, bars, and restaurants along Washington Street which are frequented by tourists, and the many visitors who come to Hoboken from across the region for its thriving nightlife and many cultural attractions.

In short, the Hoboken community has done a tremendous job developing a plan that would have such a positive impact on our community. The City took the time to hear the concerns of residents, business owners, and other stakeholders, and put together a proposal that would significantly impact the lives of so many residents. As City Council President and as a resident who regularly uses Washington Street, I whole-heartedly support this project through the DOT's TIGER grant program and would be happy to be of any assistance moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of my input on this issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ravinder S. Bhalla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ravinder S. Bhalla
Hoboken City Council President