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May 12, 2015

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

Dear Mayor Zimmer:

Please accept this letter as evidence of New Jersey Future's support for the City of Hoboken's TIGER grant application to the United States Department of Transportation for funds to revitalize, rehabilitate and resurface Washington Street.

New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that employs original research, analysis and advocacy to build coalitions and drive land-use policies that help revitalize cities and towns, protect natural lands and farms, provide more transportation choices beyond cars, expand access to safe and affordable neighborhoods and fuel a prosperous economy.

New Jersey Future recently announced the Washington Street project had won one of its prestigious 2015 Smart Growth Awards, to be presented on June 4, 2015, at our annual celebration of sustainable planning and redevelopment projects, plans, and initiatives. The Washington Street plan was recognized because of its potential to enhance mobility, increase walkability and connectivity, make sustainable transportation options more comfortable and attractive, improve resiliency and boost environmental quality, all the while maintaining Hoboken's distinctive historical character. In addition to the many Complete Streets upgrades, the planned incorporation of green infrastructure along Washington Street is an important example of how stormwater management can be an integral part of a city's larger revitalization effort. This can serve as a model for cities across New Jersey and the country that must find creative ways to address flooding and antiquated water infrastructure.

Overall, the project exemplifies how a successful street can be transformed to meet modern design standards and serve multiple functions while preserving its essential uses.

New Jersey Future also commends the plan's additional innovative features, which include infrastructure for a micro-grid to power critical community facilities; increased access to economic opportunities for low- and moderate- income residents and workers; and four bike-share stations that are part of a new program that will offer free and discounted memberships to less affluent residents.

New Jersey Future works with Hoboken staff members involved in the Washington Street project on other initiatives including their many resiliency efforts and the Urban Water Solutions Initiative, and is pleased to support their commitment to sustainable redevelopment. Hoboken's many efforts are an example for the rest of the state.

Sincerely,

Pete Kasabach
Executive Director