



*The John S. Watson  
Institute for Public Policy  
(609) 777-4351  
Fax: (609) 777-3207*

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Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College, the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association (NJUMA) is pleased to support the City of Hoboken's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) application to revitalize, rehabilitate, and resurface Washington Street. Washington Street is a critical thoroughfare that contributes to both the local and regional economy while also increasing social interaction. A thorough and successful Washington Street project will allow for both a greater Hoboken and a greater New York City metropolitan region in terms of natural disaster resiliency, economic development, and economic opportunity for all.

Hoboken has participated in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process that the NJUMA is leading and has proposed one of the plans most interesting and visionary projects. In order to make the community more resilient to natural disaster, the city hopes to build a seawall that incorporates resiliency education, creates a public space, recreational opportunities, green space, and potentially workforce development. We were pleased to see that Hoboken used the opportunity to rebuild the seawall to bring a more vibrant and multi-purpose use to the space through innovative purposeful design. Supporting the proper upkeep of Washington Street will allow projects such as the seawall and other initiatives that the city is undertaking to thrive and meet the potential that the NJUMA knows is present in Hoboken. Hoboken's forward thinking on resiliency and revitalization as two sides of the same coin has been a welcome part of NJUMA's efforts to encourage other municipalities to think creatively on natural disaster resiliency, green infrastructure, and urban designs of the future.

The NJUMA strongly recommends Hoboken to receive \$14 million in TIGER grants to complete the revitalization, rehabilitation, and resurfacing of Washington Street. The goals that Hoboken seeks to meet through this project are forward thinking and critical to the success of other initiatives that will increase the city's stature as a center for the future economy of New Jersey and the region.

Sincerely,

Barbara George Johnson, MPH, JD  
Executive Director  
The John S. Watson Institute of Public Policy

c Stephen Marks, Business Administrator, City of Hoboken