



Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority

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October 31, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: CTDOT Charter Oak Bridge FASTLANE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) is a quasi-state agency established by the Connecticut General Assembly to develop, own, operate and manage the requisite recycling and solid waste disposal facilities necessary to carry out the state's solid waste management plan and serve the needs of municipalities and businesses.

MIRA's main waste-to energy and recycling facilities are located in the City of Hartford in very close proximity to the Interstate 91 corridor and the Charter Oak Bridge. Our customers deliver material to our facilities each business day in hundreds of trucks ranging from tractor trailers to small route vehicles. Additionally, dozens more tractor trailers from our three outlying transfer stations deliver waste and recycling direct to our Hartford facilities.

Therefore, MIRA is pleased to support the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) in its submittal of a FASTLANE grant application for the Charter Oak Bridge Project to alleviate traffic congestion and improve travel times for our customers. The Charter Oak Bridge spans the Connecticut River carrying Routes 5 and 15 and is a connector between Interstates 91 and 84. This interchange has been identified as one of the top 100 bottlenecks in the country which has a profoundly negative effect on the ability to move traffic in a safe and efficient manner.

Turn-around time is critically important for our customers in the solid waste business. Traffic delays literally take trucks out of service for hours and increase the cost of doing business. Reducing those delays will benefit the businesses and municipalities that we serve. Moreover, enhancing the ability for our customers to move freight safely is of paramount importance. To that end, improving the traffic flow on Interstate 91 and 84 and the Charter Oak Bridge is vitally needed for the customers we serve and indeed for the overall health of the local economy.

MIRA respectfully urges your department to approve CTDOT's FASTLANE grant application for the Charter Oak Bridge Project.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Kirk
President