



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

November 10, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
US Dept. of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Financial Partnership/City of Madison TIGER IX Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express the strong support and financial commitment of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to the City of Madison's satellite bus garage project for which they have requested federal TIGER funding. By means of this letter, I am confirming that the University commits a one-time contribution of \$50,000 to support the total project, including construction of the bus garage and an addition of five all-electric articulated buses to Metro's fleet. Our pledge is based upon the expectation that with the proposed expansion, Metro will deploy an articulated bus or buses to the campus circulator routes.

We make this commitment because the University's partnership with Metro Transit has proven beneficial to our students, faculty and staff, and UW Hospital & Clinic employees. Our most recent Transportation Survey, completed in 2014, found that among students living within 6-10 miles of campus, 50% rely on Metro, while 20% of faculty and staff living within 3-5 miles of campus ride Metro Transit. The University is fortunate to have this transportation resource to offer students in particular, who, because of the expense and inconvenience, are discouraged from bringing cars to campus.

Metro's campus circulator buses are routinely overcrowded, as is the case with key routes connecting Madison neighborhoods with the campus. Though the University has requested additional service, we understand that until Metro can house additional buses, they are unable to expand service. By means of this partnership, Metro has agreed to assign one of its first articulated buses to the campus routes.

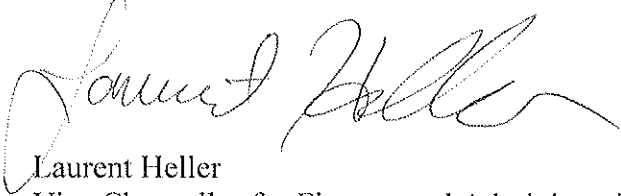
As a large area employer and the flagship institution of our great state, we believe it is crucial to use our capacity to make positive change for our community at large. As a transit intensive and supportive city and community, it is important to leverage this strength that has resulted in greater convenience, environmental responsibility, and better transportation access for all by further investing in our greater Madison Metro service.

The most recent WisDOT analysis shows Metro's per-capita ridership is the 15th best in the country, beating out the Twin Cities, San Diego, and Miami, cities with 1-5 million residents. This is further demonstrated by our #1 rank of local support in local dollars as compared to other transit systems within the state. Our community provides twice as much support compared to our closest competitor.

Taking a wider view, we also look forward to the regional improvements, including BRT service, an expanded electric fleet, and more frequent peak-hour service within neighborhoods, that TIGER funding will make possible. These much-needed improvements will strengthen connections between campus and the Madison region.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter and urge you to fund the City of Madison's request for TIGER IX funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurent Heller", written in a cursive style.

Laurent Heller
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

cc: Mayor Paul Soglin
Chuck Kamp, Metro Transit General Manager