

JOHN ENSIGN
NEVADA

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
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FINANCE

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HOMELAND SECURITY AND
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S10-091001-007

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September 10, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to you today in support of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) and their application to the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Discretionary Grant Program* (TIGER). If awarded, this grant would allocate the funds needed for a rapid transit line in southern Nevada.

Las Vegas has been home to one of the most vibrant tourism industries in the nation. Unfortunately, Nevada has also been one of the states hardest hit by the current recession. The tourism industry represents approximately 370,000 jobs in southern Nevada. This is roughly 40% of the total jobs in the region. The ability to move the community's 2 million residents and nearly 40 million visitors is critical to the economic health of the region and the state.

This project will provide an important rapid transit link between residential communities and key employment areas near and within the Resort Corridor. It will improve the convenience, efficiency, and reliability of the commuter transit system; and represents an innovative link between transit planning and land use development policies.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and review of this grant application.

Sincerely,



John Ensign
United States Senator

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NEVADA

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September 29, 2009

S10-091005-025

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The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

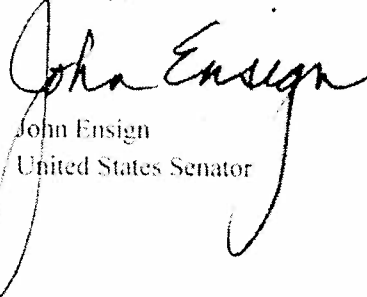
I am writing to you today in support of the Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway and their application to the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Discretionary Grant Program* (TIGER). If awarded, this grant would allocate the funds needed for the V&T Railway Reconstruction Project.

With an unemployment rate of 12.5% (as of August 21, 2009), Nevada has been one of the states hardest hit by the current recession. For this reason, it is vital that our state seeks out projects and initiatives that will create jobs and provide long-term sustainability for some of our most economically distressed areas. That is why this project is ideal for TIGER funding. Upon receipt, this project is ready to utilize TIGER funds to quickly boost the local economy. Immediately, this allocation would allow for the creation and preservation of numerous design and construction jobs between now and the completion of the project in 2012. In the long-term, this project will include the creation of approximately 180 full-time railroad-related jobs, approximately 370 full-time non-railroad-related jobs, and approximately 240 full-time gaming-related jobs in this community.

I would also like to recognize the fact that this project is a major public/private partnership venture with generous support and participation from multiple agencies and organizations. In fact, this project is considered to be so important for the region that voters in two counties (Carson City and Storey County) passed sales tax measures in an effort to raise \$21.5 million for this reconstruction. With a total of \$37 million being pledged through both federal and local efforts, it is clear that this initiative is of great economic significance to the region.

Therefore, I thank you in advance for your consideration and review of this grant application.

Sincerely,



John Ensign
United States Senator