



BIG SANDY
AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.
110 RESOURCE COURT
PRESTONSBURG, KY 41653

May 20, 2013

Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express Big Sandy Area Development District's support of an application to DOT's TIGER Grant Program for the Dawkins Rails-To-Trails project. Our agency was involved in the original planning associated with the Dawkins project and continues to support the development of the rail corridor because of the positive impacts expected for the region. In addition to the economic impact from tourism, the quality of life for the area's residents will be greatly improved when the project is fully implemented. Due in part to limited opportunities for engaging in healthy activities, the region's population suffers from high incidents of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Having projects like the Dawkins Rails-To-Trails project is important for reversing this trend.

Big Sandy Area Development District staff continue to promote the Dawkins project whenever possible and will participate in planning associated with the next phase of the project as development occurs. Please consider this letter as our endorsement of the Dawkins Rails-To-Trails funding application. Please contact me at 606-886-2374 if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Thomas".

Denise Thomas
Community & Economic Development Associate

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