

Dave Miller,
Commission Chairman
Ben Ober,
Commissioner
Allan Underdal,
Commissioner
Merle Raph,
County Attorney
Donna Whitt,
Sheriff
Dan B. Whitted,
Coroner
Commissioners
Office# 406-424-8310
tccomm@toolecountymt.gov



Mary Ann Harwood,
Clerk & Recorder
Sandra Peers,
Clerk of Court
Boyd Jackson
Treasurer/Assessor
Supt. of Schools
Helen I. Schnee,
Public Administrator
Sherrie Murphy,
Justice of the Peace
Clerk & Records Office #
406-424-8300
Fax# 406-424-8301
tcclerk@toolecountymt.gov

COUNTY OF TOOLE

226 1ST Street South
Toole County Courthouse, Shelby, MT 59474

October 20, 2011

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

RE: Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center TIGER III Application

Dear Mr. Secretary,

This letter conveys Toole County's support for the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center project, for which the Northern Express Transportation Authority has requested \$9,998,910 in TIGER III grant funding. Federal funds will be combined with a \$7,346,558 (42 percent) non-federal match that has been committed to the project and dedicated to completing it.

Montana is the fourth largest state in the nation, yet we currently do not have the ability to ship or receive containerized cargos for import and export due to the lack of a multimodal facility capable of accepting and delivering unit trains of containers. This project would construct Montana's first multimodal facility to facilitate the export of agricultural commodities and manufactured products--a noteworthy commercial accomplishment. Helena-based manufacturers lack the ability to containerize their cargos for export delivery to world markets. The facility as proposed would serve to address this statewide shortfall in export potential.

The project is 100 percent ready to go. It has received all required environmental clearances including Categorical Exclusions from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration.

As funding applications are evaluated, we would hope that you would carefully consider the project's many benefits.

Respectfully,

Dave Miller
Chairman

Ben Ober
Commissioner

Allan Underdal
Commissioner