



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054

Mathew J. Muratore
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr. Francis Gay, Administrator
GATRA
10 Oak Street. 2nd Floor
Taunton, MA 02780

RE: FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grants for the Plymouth Multimodal Center in Plymouth, MA

Dear Mr. Gay,

I strongly support the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)'s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grants for the Plymouth Multimodal Center in Plymouth, MA.

The project will support Ladders of Opportunity by investing in infrastructure that improves access to jobs, services, medical care and education while saving time, money and environmental impacts through transportation choice. Residents of the project area have median incomes substantially lower than both the Town of Plymouth as a whole and Massachusetts. Residents of the project area are also more dependent on transit to commute to work than the Town of Plymouth as a whole. The project provides access to jobs along the Plymouth waterfront and downtown area, as well as to employment and service centers served by GATRA routes.

The project is a true intermodal center located within a 10-minute walk of the Plymouth main street business district and historic and working waterfront sites. Residents, visitors, tourists, and boaters may utilize a range of transportation modes housed at the proposed Multimodal Center including GATRA bus service, a seasonal circulator shuttle, parking, pedestrian connections, bicycle accommodations, taxi and pedi-cab services.

A key priority for the project is the provision of enhanced pedestrian connections between the waterfront and the business and cultural venues along Court/Main Streets. Two new public spaces are created as part of this project as well as an enclosed area for a local bicycle sharing program or bicycle rental facility. Centralizing parking in the downtown with strong transit connections reduces vehicle miles travelled, and therefore, reduced emissions as well as supporting tourism and economic opportunity in Plymouth. Additional parking spaces are provided to meet well-documented seasonal shortages, transit use and ferry services.

The project provides for mixed-use development including an expanded visitor center and unique leasable spaces along Water Street. Not only does this buffer the scale and industrial quality of structured parking from the historic Plymouth waterfront, but helps to stitch together the urban and economic ambitions of the project into a single identity that will enhance the growth, development and character of the Plymouth waterfront.

The Town of Plymouth would greatly benefit from the transportation center and I give their application my full support.

Best,

Mathew J. Muratore
State Representative
First Plymouth District