

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 20

House resolution relating to support of Agency of Transportation's TIGER grant application for Western Corridor rail improvements

Offered by: Representatives Bissonnette of Winooski, Russell of Rutland City, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Carr of Brandon, Connor of Fairfield, Consejo of Sheldon, Corcoran of Bennington, Fisher of Lincoln, Gage of Rutland City, Gallivan of Chittenden, Jerman of Essex, Lanpher of Vergennes, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Nuovo of Middlebury, Potter of Clarendon, and Ralston of Middlebury

Whereas, the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery or "TIGER" discretionary grants program was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and

Whereas, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 appropriated \$600 million to be awarded by the Department of Transportation for national infrastructure investments through a sixth round of TIGER grants, and

Whereas, on February 25, 2014, Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, issued a Notice of Funding Availability for a federal Fiscal Year 2014 round of TIGER grants, with grant applications to be accepted starting on April 3, 2014, and due on or before April 28, 2014, and

Whereas, as with the previous five rounds of TIGER grants, funds for the Fiscal Year 2014 round of TIGER grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region, and

Whereas, in 2013, in recognition of the importance of the State-owned Western Corridor rail line to the region's freight system, the Agency of Transportation was awarded an \$8.9 million TIGER grant for rehabilitation of 20 miles of State-owned track from Rutland to Leicester, including replacement of nine miles of track with continuously welded rail, upgrading 11 at-grade farm crossings, and making other improvements allowing for unrestricted Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class 3 speed operations of up to 40 mph on this track segment, which improvements for freight rail would have auxiliary benefits of enabling expansion of passenger rail service in the Western Corridor, and

Whereas, the competitive TIGER program offers one of the only federal funding possibilities for large rail projects, which are not eligible for other federal funding, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body encourages the Agency of Transportation to submit an application and supports the Agency's efforts to obtain a Fiscal Year 2014 TIGER grant for installation of continuously welded rail and for other necessary improvements along State-owned track from Leicester to New Haven, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Administrator Joseph C. Szabo of the Federal Railroad Administration; Howard Hill, TIGER Discretionary Grant Program staff; the Vermont Congressional Delegation; and Secretary Brian Searles of the Vermont Agency of Transportation.