



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo
Fourteenth District
California*

November 30, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I'm writing to bring your attention to H.R. 1695, the *Broadband Conduit Deployment Act of 2011*. As you'll recall, you expressed support for this legislation during a House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing in November 2009. The concept was subsequently included as a recommendation in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) National Broadband Plan.

The adoption of a "dig once" policy would facilitate the rapid deployment of broadband service, promote competition, and save taxpayer dollars by requiring the inclusion of "broadband conduit" during the construction of federal highways.

As we work towards bringing affordable, robust broadband service to the 18 million Americans without access today, it's important to consider the significant cost savings from adopting a "dig once" policy. The Federal Highway Administration estimates it is ten times more expensive to dig up and then repair an existing road to lay fiber, than to dig a channel for it when the road is being fixed or built.

More recent data suggests that the inclusion of broadband conduit in highway construction projects will add less than 1 percent to the cost of the overall project. These costs would effectively be offset by not having to dig up a road a second time, in addition to the economic benefits of facilitating broadband deployment, including job creation, higher GDP growth rates, and improved employee productivity.

I hope you'll consider working with me to administratively include a "dig once" policy as a criteria for federal highway projects. Thank you for your consideration of my views, and I look forward to your response.

Most gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna C. Eshoo", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anna C. Eshoo
Member of Congress