November 17th, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As all levels of government work collaboratively to help restore our economy, support jobs and solve our transportation challenges, I write today in support of two unique applications that collaborate to reach those same goals.

Two TIGER Applications submitted by Miami-Dade County Transit and Florida International University will help connect significant eastern and western Miami-Dade County communities and destinations, including the new Miami Intermodal Center at Miami International Airport. These two complementary proposals represent a unique university, governmental and private sector, collaboration that leverages world-class transit and information technology, with sustainable community interactions to create a cost-effective, practical, and comprehensive approach to urban mobility and economic development.

With the County’s TIGER Grant application, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) will ensure that the deployment of Express Enhanced Bus Service on State Road 836 is integrated into this initiative. Additionally, Miami-Dade County, as a partner in FIU’s application, is committed to provide viable and economically feasible transportation options for our citizens that not only ease congestion, but connect commercial sectors, affordable housing and community transit hubs, like FIU.

The leveraged investments are not ours alone. The University is committed to invest in the development of an Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS). International Business Machines (IBM) will leverage technologies, and expertise to deploy an informed traveler program (ITP). The City of Sweetwater, Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation, District 6 are also partners in the project.

FIU, one of our community’s anchor partners and economic engines, has helped support our county’s infrastructure and transportation planning for many years and with great impact. The university and partners will undoubtedly collaborate to also bring this project to a successful fruition.
On November 2\textsuperscript{nd} 2011, the Administration announced several steps to improve the process of reviewing and approving transportation projects, including awarding the $527 million in competitive TIGER grants months ahead of schedule, which we applaud. In light of this expedited schedule, I urge support of both TIGER grants which will make a significant impact in the region and be a model for the nation.

Sincerely,

Joe A. Martinez
Chairman