November 1, 2011

Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing you today in support of the FY2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant application being submitted by Florida International University (FIU), the University City Project. This proposal demonstrates innovative transportation planning and enhances modal choices by reducing transportation costs, connecting affordable housing, promoting sustainable development, and protecting the environment.

I am told that the University City Project will integrate the Informed Traveler Program (ITP) with a new multi-modal transportation hub on the FIU campus and Express Enhanced Bus Service on State Road-836. The TIGER grant would fund improvements including traffic-calmed streets, transit greenways, and mixed-mode corridors in the City of Sweetwater, Florida.

The project will connect this community with the FIU campus, while simultaneously combining Express Enhanced Bus Service customers at the new Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS) at FIU. The development of the ATMS on campus will link citizens to new transportation options between eastern and western Miami-Dade County destinations, including the Miami Intermodal Center at Miami International Airport.

FIU is working with Miami-Dade, the Florida Department of Transportation, and IBM to benefit Southeast Florida’s transit system and economy. By connecting individuals to live-data on traffic patterns, actual transit options, and modeled predictions of the optimal routes, citizens of Miami-Dade County will be able to make more informed transportation choices.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

Senator Bill Nelson