COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT LETTERS FOR UNIVERSITY CITY PROJECT
TIGER PROPOSAL
10-31-2011
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October 31, 2011

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

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The UniversityCity Project is a high priority initiative for Florida International University under our 2010-2015 Strategic Plan objective “Engage with the Community in Collaborative Problem Solving.” We are committed to making the project a successful national and international model for advanced mobility, economic prosperity, sustainable communities, and innovative university-community partnerships. Accordingly, FIU pledges to invest significant resources in combination with our various project partners. Along with our entire Congressional Delegation, we urge the US Department of Transportation to invest with us in the form of a TIGER Discretionary Grant in the amount of $32,549,933.

FIU’s matching contributions to the UniversityCity Project will total approximately $35,000,000 and will include several elements:

1. Design, construction and operation of one “Smart Garage” and the retrofit of another “Smart Garage” as part of the Advanced Transit Multimodal Station (ATMS). The new garage will facilitate timely delivery of transit customers as part of the Informed Traveler Program (ITP), provide parking spaces for visitors of FIU who also use the ATMS, provide bicycle storage facilities, and host a number of vehicles for FIU’s car sharing service.

2. Creation and operation of a Transit Rider orientation program for FIU freshman at the beginning of each semester that will encourage a culture of transit use.

3. Annual project evaluations including a formal survey of students, staff, and Sweetwater residents to assess progress and provide information for operational adjustments over the first 10 years of the project.

4. In conjunction with the UniversityCity Alliance, FIU will create and operate a web site designed to inform the public and FIU students about project construction and activities,
local FIU and Sweetwater shuttle and community transit information, ITP subscriptions and services, monthly transit passes, and related events.

5. Additional maintenance costs for pedestrian-oriented public spaces on campus associated with the Parabola Bridge, the ATMS, and linkages to the other cultural facilities.

The University City Project will uniquely and innovatively help accomplish the goals of the TIGER grant program to enhance national economic competitiveness, provide immediate and long term job creation, enhance the surface transportation system, and create equitable and sustainable communities.

We look forward to having USDOT as our partner in the creation of a new international model of economic prosperity: UniversityCity.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Jessell, PhD
Senior Vice President and CFO

Cc:
Mayor Carlos Gimenez
Mayor Manuel Maroño
Jose Abreu
Ysella Llort
Gus Pego
Javier Rodriguez
City of Sweetwater

October 31, 2011

Kenneth A. Jessell, Ph. D.
Senior Vice President/CFO
Florida International University
University Park/ Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, PC 523
Miami, Florida 33199

Re: UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal

Dear Vice President/CFO Jessell:

On behalf of the City of Sweetwater, I am pleased to provide to you this letter of support and commitment for the FIU-led UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal for FY2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant funds. I have been briefed by engaged FIU personnel and my own Chief of Staff, Robert Herrada, who has been very closely monitoring this proposal and you have my full support.

I have seen the plans developed by TYLIN International for improvements to SW 109th Avenue that widen walking opportunities and establish a linear park along both sides as right-of-way allows and they meet with my approval acting as the City’s Chief Executive Officer. I do want to consult with the Sweetwater City Commission regarding these matters, but I see no problem in reaching the specific agreement as to timing and finalizing the details as to these UniversityCity Project components that involve activities within Sweetwater:

- Improvements to SW 109th Avenue as agreed upon with FIU to be performed by the FIU selected entity who will also be building the new parking garage, the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station, Parabola Bridge, and the pedestrian improvements on the Maidique Campus;
- use of $250,000 in these TIGER grant funds for Sweetwater to undertake the following activities as agreed upon by FIU: i) major maintenance, general repairs, fabrication and positioning of improved seating and interior conditions and the painting of the three existing Sweetwater community transit vehicles and a small all electric rubber-tired trolley currently stored at FIU; and ii) purchase of associated equipment and supplies for these major maintenance, repairs, and painting; and, iii) the taking of title of the small electric rubber-tired trolley when accepted by the Maintenance Department as in working order (it currently needs the afore mentioned work to become operational);
- commitment to the use of a second Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle identified by Sweetwater in a manner as agreed upon with FIU (an anticipated cost to Sweetwater of
$55,000 per year for three years assuming an eight hour service five days per week) once FIU and Sweetwater agree on how all four vehicles will be updated for local community transit services and how the second Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle will operate between FIU Engineering Center, destinations suit the needs of Sweetwater citizens at or around the commercial properties at the intersection of SW107th Avenue and West Flagler Street and along SW109th Street including Sweetwater City Hall, the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station in the planned FIU parking garage west of the Red Parking Garage on the Maidique Campus, and the Shuttle Stop to be built as part of the proposed Covered Walkway to the Green Library west of the Owa Ehan Building (it being assumed that the first Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle identified by Sweetwater will run the route for community services as it does now or otherwise as Sweetwater determines is best for its residents and that the third Sweetwater Community Transit vehicle identified by Sweetwater is held in good working order as a Sweetwater reserve vehicle; and,

- agreement to use the small all electric trolley for any of the following: short trips between City Hall and the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station and afore mentioned Shuttle Spot for a small fee per passenger; short trips between Sweetwater and FIU using FIU interns or others for special and community event trips; and, use for concierge services associated with the hotel planned adjacent the new parking garage that houses the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station as shown generally by the attached.

I do not anticipate having any problems reaching agreements on the particulars with FIU after the TIGER grant is awarded as to the exact details of these operational matters. I understand this agreement as between FIU and Sweetwater will also include the more frequent use of SW 109th Avenue by the FIU CATS shuttle vehicles operating between FIU Engineering Building and Maidique Campus ATMS, the afore mentioned Shuttle Stop and other destinations.

It is a recognized mutual goal of FIU and Sweetwater to optimize the use of available small transit vehicles for Sweetwater residents, employers, employees, and visitor as well as FIU students, faculty, other personnel, and visitor especially when crossing US 41 at SW 109th Avenue.

As FIU’s partner in these University City Project TIGER Proposal that grew out of the University City Alliance Charrette of September 23-24, 2011, I whole heartedly support these efforts and will do whatever is in my power to help bring about this University City Project to a successful conclusion and deployment in the event of US DOT TIGER funds awarded.

With the above conditions in mind, please accept this pledge by Sweetwater of the amount for these new community transit operations not to exceed $55,000 for each year of a three year period beginning March 1, 2011 (total commitment not to exceed $165,000) plus the use of Sweetwater right-of-way as depicted by the attached TYLIN drawings for pedestrian oriented improvements along SW 109th Avenue from SW 5th Street to US 41/SW 8th Street subject to review and Sweetwater approval of the final construction plans and agreement as to the term of such use.
I concur in the estimated values for use of the right-of-way as $1,613,040 for purposes of the UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal (based on TYLIN drawings showing 34,320 square feet of area for the pedestrian improvements on both sides on the SW109th Avenue times average property values as calculated by FIU's I/ICRC-CAKE at $47 per square feet).

Finally, I agree that maintenance costs for keeping the pedestrian improvements along SW 109th Avenue will require Sweetwater maintenance to spend more time on this corridor and that a fair estimate of the extra effort is $25,000 per year for the next 10 years ($250,000).

The exact manner for the carrying out of this maintenance issue, along with the proposed $260,000 TIGER funded repair and refurbishing efforts for the three Sweetwater community transit vehicles and a fourth electric rubber-tired trolley vehicle (that would be titled to Sweetwater after such repairs), as described in the UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal will be agreed upon with FIU immediately after and in the event of the US DOT award of a TIGER grant to FIU for FY2011.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mayor Manuel Maroño
City of Sweetwater
October 25, 2011

Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: TIGER III Discretionary Grant Application for the FIU University City Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Miami Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) is pleased to provide this letter of support to the Florida International University (FIU) grant application for the University City Project.

The University City Project TIGER Proposal describes how FIU would:

- deploy the state-of-the-practice Informed Traveler Program (ITP) initially for FIU and Sweetwater residents, students, employers, and employees; and,
- develop:
  - an Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS);
  - an ATMS terminal and related mixed-use pedestrian-oriented areas;
  - a transit greenway system;
  - a traffic calmed street in the City of Sweetwater along SW 109th Avenue; and,
  - mixed-mode corridors at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MAMC).

MDX intends to partner with FIU for work in an amount approximately $315,000 that is to be undertaken by the National Science Foundation’s Industry-University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement at Florida International University (I/UCRC-CAKE at FIU) in cooperation with the Integrated Intelligent Transportation System (IITS) Laboratory at the Lehman Center for Transportation Research (LCTR). The LCTR would facilitate the implementation of the ITP (Version 1.0 and Version 2.0) such that the ITP also supports near and long term ITS interests of MDX related to the deployment of the SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Service. MDX will authorize FIU to commence work activities beginning in 2012 immediately after the University City Project
TIGER Proposal award is approved and federal funding becomes available from FY2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant proceeds.

These transportation improvements would be undertaken upon the award of the FIU requested FY 2011 TIGER grant funds in coordination with the Miami-Dade County proposed SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Service to be operated by Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) on US 41, on SW 107th Avenue, and on SR-836/Dolphin Expressway. The SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Service TIGER Proposal is being separately developed by MDT as FY2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant submittal. In the event US DOT, agrees to award TIGER grants to both MDT and FIU, there will exist a robust, frequent, and very smart BRT-like transit system operating between multiple east and west Miami-Dade destinations with superior customer acceptance and high use.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this important project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 305 637-3277 ext. 2201 or email jrodriguez@mdxway.com

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Javier Rodriguez, P.E.  
Executive Director
Mr. Tom Gustafson  
Florida International University  
Miami, FL  

Dear Tom:

IBM is pleased to present this Budget and Planning Estimate to Florida International University (“FIU”) for the IBM hardware, software, and services proposed as components of the Informed Traveler Program (“ITP”).

The proposed IBM hardware includes 3 years of on-site maintenance; discounts ranging from 27% - 37% have been applied. The proposed IBM software products include the license + 3 years of subscription & support; discounts ranging from 50%-60% have been applied to the products and to the additional years of subscription and support. The Budget and Planning Estimate for IBM Professional Services contains a preliminary planning estimate that can be used for project budgeting purposes. The estimate is based on preliminary presales information provided by your team.

Estimated IBM Hardware pricing $ 500,000.00  
Estimated IBM Software pricing $2,511,694.00  
Estimated IBM Services Charges $6,987,076.00  
Estimated Travel and Living Expenses $ 500,000.00  

**Estimated Total IBM ITP Project Pricing** $10,498,770.00  

IBM appreciates the opportunity to work with FIU on this strategic project. If you should have any questions, or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 305-206-5022 or by email at eloos@us.ibm.com or contact Juan Caraballo at jfc@us.ibm.com.

Sincerely,

Emily Loos  
IBM Client Executive  
Public Sector Industry  

Attachments  
cc: Bill Glendenning, IBM  
Juan Caraballo, IBM  
Blake Serra, IBM
October 31, 2011

The Honorable Manuel L. Maroño
Mayor, City of Sweetwater
500 SW 109th Avenue
Sweetwater, Florida 33174

Subject: FIU – Sweetwater UniversityCity Project TIGER Proposal

Dear Mayor Maroño:

Please find listed below a proposal to rebuild/repair and enhance Sweetwater’s three bus fleet so that they will be more dependable, more attractive, and more enjoyable to customers using the service. Also include is a proposal to repurpose the small rubber-tire hybrid-electric trolley currently stored at FIU Engineering Center.

This proposal assumes city employees assigned to assist in this work would be trained by me to more effectively provide preventative maintenance services and to enhance their overall vehicle repair and automotive paint application. The budget I recommend also includes an amount for the vehicle lift your Maintenance Department needs.

Please also find the photos of previous designs and development projects accomplished.

Thank you.

George M. Brenyo
Vehicle Design and Fabrications
Proposal

1. Re-purpose Hybrid-Electric Trolley .................................................. $24,000
2. Enhance Existing 3 Community Bus Coach fleet ................................ $67,000
3. Coach Lift ....................................................................................... $18,000
4. 16 months Design and Hands-on Management @ 40 hours per week .... $152,000
   $261,000

Previous Designed and Developed Vehicles

Image 6: Small rubber-tire electric trolley would operate on traffic-calmed streets as well as mixed-mode corridors and transit greenways in MMC and elsewhere. Designed for speeds of 25 mph and less it is a worthy alternative to golf cart vehicles in for use in pedestrian oriented public space. This vehicle is sized between the shuttle vehicles and golf carts and can work within pedestrian oriented built environments.

A RetroBus and the Large Red Trolley
Passengers and Operators continually remark about the roominess and comfort of the Specialty Vehicles’ Jitney Tram. That’s because the Jitney Tram is economically designed for premium performance at an inexpensive price. Constructed with non-skid rubber flooring, step lighting and a public announcement system, the Jitney Tram offers a spacious, comfortable ride. Its breezy, open-air design is perfect for any resorts, theme parks, or tour and shuttle companies. It’s also the reason passengers and operators love riding in our trams.
October 28, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Education, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We write today to express our full support for a FY2011 TIGER Discretionary Grant application being submitted by Florida International University (FIU) that seeks to deploy innovative transportation practices, and in turn, spur economic growth in South Florida. The unique combination of improvements in this proposal offer great promise beyond Miami as they will create completely new models of efficient mobility systems that intentionally and directly support economic development and competitiveness.

Specifically, the UniversityCity Project initiative will foster economic prosperity for residents of the region by integrating the deployment of an internationally recognized, state-of-the-practice Informed Traveler Program (ITP) with a new multimodal transportation hub on the FIU campus and Express Enhanced Bus Service on State Road-836.

This TIGER grant would also make possible multi-modal improvements, including traffic-calmed streets, transit greenways, and mixed-mode corridors in the City of Sweetwater, Florida, connecting this community with campus and at the same time, help aggregate Express Enhanced Bus Service customers at the new Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS) at FIU.

We trust you will find that this initiative advances the livability principles of the Department of Transportation by enhancing modal choices, connecting affordable housing, reducing transportation costs, protecting the environment and promoting equitable development. It should be noted that FIU was a lead partner in developing the successful Sustainable Communities planning grant for Southeast Florida.

In applying for this TIGER Grant, FIU is committing to develop the ATMS on campus which, when blended with the proposed transit greenway system, mixed-mode corridors, and a complementary TIGER proposal by Miami-Dade County for SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Service will link citizens to new transportation options between significant eastern and western Miami-Dade County destinations, including the new Miami Intermodal Center at Miami International Airport. In the event the Department of Transportation agrees to award TIGER grants to both Miami-Dade and FIU, there will exist a robust, frequent, and very smart transit system operating between multiple east and west Miami-Dade destinations with superior customer acceptance and high use.

The UniversityCity Project emanates from transportation challenges and solutions identified through various earlier efforts by FIU, it’s Lehman Center for Transportation Research (LCTR) and critical stakeholders, most of which are expected to be grant partners in this initiative. These longstanding stakeholders include the City of Sweetwater, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Miami-Dade
County, Florida Department of Transportation, District 6, and International Business Machines (IBM).

Thanks to the innovation and pledged support of IBM, who will provide assets, technologies, and expertise, thousands of Southeast Florida residents will benefit from the ITP. By connecting them 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 optimize their transportation choices. The ITP deployment will engage computer scientists and technicians at the NSF-funded Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement at FIU.

FIU serves as a logical lead partner to help bring about this innovative deployment and connect communities within the region. In addition to attracting and developing internationally savvy talent that drives Florida’s growing knowledge economy, FIU is one of the 25 largest universities in the US with over 50,000 students and staff, is the largest Hispanic-Serving university, and serves as an anchor for the emerging South Florida biotech corridor. Its campuses attract nearly 500,000 visitors annually, making it the academic, social, cultural, athletic, recreational center in western Miami-Dade County.

We are glad to report that the Florida Department of Transportation has been engaged with FIU on the larger vision for easing transportation problems in western Miami-Dade County and has expressed interest in this UniversityCity initiative. This TIGER grant will allow Miami-Dade and FIU to provide more frequent transport and connectivity between West Miami-Dade county, the Miami Intermodal Complex, Downtown Miami and North Miami.

As you consider how best to make these critical TIGER investments, we urge support of this project which will have a significant impact on the Southeast Florida Region and the Nation.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Maria Díaz-Balart
Member at Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

David Rivera
Member of Congress
October 25, 2011

Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: TIGER III Discretionary Grant Application for the FIU UniversityCity Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is pleased to provide this letter of support to the Florida International University’s (FIU) grant application for the UniversityCity Project.

FIU’s grant application includes an Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS) located adjacent SR-90/US-41/SW 8th Street just west of the SW 109th Avenue intersection. This multimodal center is a key component that benefits all transportation partners.

The future growth and success of our region depends on the safe and efficient movement of our traveling public. This new multimodal station represents a great opportunity to connect the westernmost part of Miami-Dade County with FIU, and the newly constructed Miami Intermodal Center at the Miami International Airport via MDT’s new SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Route. It will further provide linkages with FIU’s Golden Panther Express that currently operates between the FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus in western Miami-Dade County to the Biscayne Bay Campus in North Miami, Florida. These new routes will connect residential, employment, educational, and transportation centers, and will provide our communities with a safe and efficient alternative to driving. MDT will continue to coordinate with FIU so that our Express Bus Services complement and do not compete with each other. Significant project benefits include increased transportation options, improved level-of-service, reduction in vehicle miles traveled, and vehicle cost savings to commuters. We anticipate that these benefits will increase transit ridership and improve economic competitiveness for our region.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this important project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 786-469-5406 or email yllopt@miamidade.gov.

Sincerely,

Ysela Llort
Interim Director, Miami-Dade Transit
Mr. Steve Sauls  
Vice President  
Office of Governmental Relations  
Florida International University  
11200 SW 8th Street, Room PC 519  
Miami, FL 33189

Dear Mr. Sauls,

I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the UniversityCity Visioning meetings and Charrette. It was apparent that a lot of progress has been made toward developing a common vision toward promoting pedestrian and transit movement between the campus and the City.

With respect to US-41/Tamiami Trail at SW 109 Avenue, I have asked our staff to evaluate this intersection to determine if there are any safety or operational deficiencies and what countermeasures can be implemented to address them as well as facilitate the movement of pedestrians between FIU and Sweetwater. I will keep you advised of study results and should the study identify project improvements, they will be implemented in coordination with the MPO, FIU and the City.

Thank you again,

Sincerely,

Gus Pego, P.E.  
District Secretary