

FIU's FY2012 TIGER proposal: UniversityCity Prosperity Project (\$20 MILLION ASK)

We appreciate the guidance provided by DOT senior staff to FIU in preparation of this submittal for FY12 TIGER Discretionary Grant funds.

Given our unique challenges (and no Metrorail in sight), this is Miami-Dade County's best "PLAN B" to relieve congestion, improve safety and provide affordable, efficient and multimodal options.

The previous FY11 proposal was highly ranked (within the top 100). This year's TIGER proposal is even better - exactly the type of replicable project that will produce **IMMEDIATE** results and have a **NATIONAL IMPACT**. Critical components are:

- **JOB CREATION: 527 immediate jobs and many more ongoing "Main Street" jobs**
- **USES INNOVATION + TECHNOLOGY EXPECTED TO REDUCE TRAVEL TIME BY 20% OR MORE**
 - **Advanced Transit Oriented Development**: traffic-calming and safety elements will increase ridership for the **836Express** bus service proposed by MDT.
 - Developed by the **NSF's I/UCRC-CAKE at FIU**, and with assistance from **IBM** (an industrial member of the I/UCRC-CAKE): smartphone-based **Informed Traveler Program and Applications** and **Mixed-Use Smart Garages** will provide timely travel information
 - FIU match will help to construct an **Advanced Transit Multimodal Station** at Maidique Campus to aggregate pedestrians and substantially increase transit ridership.
 - These changes to the built environment are expected to produce a **10% or more modal shift** from cars to transit/biking/walking
- **SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**:
 - Transform the area into a vibrant hub of cultural, educational, innovation, and recreational activity and advance major private development
 - Establish business incubator environment for medical services and health sciences
- **GREATER COST MATCH: 125 MILLION** - More than a 7 to 1 ratio when comparing total project costs (\$145M) to TIGER funds (\$20M)
 - FIU match of **\$35.44M** (24.4% of project costs)
 - Sweetwater match of **\$22.13M** (15.2% of project costs)
 - FDOT match of **\$26.61M** (15.5% of project costs)
 - MDX match of **\$10.26M** (7.1% of project costs)
 - RRAC University Apts. match of **\$35M** (24.1% of project costs)
 - TIGER funds **\$20M** (13.7% of project costs)
- **TOTAL LEVERAGED INVESTMENT OVER 10 YEARS OR MORE IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$500M**
- **BROADER BUY-IN** by other partners and participants:
 - **Public**: City of Sweetwater, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Transit, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, Florida Department of Transportation, and the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership.
 - **Private business** involvement by IBM, developers and local business. Strong interest from KUD and Forest City Enterprises. Celebrity investor in first mixed-use housing project.
- **The UniversityCity Prosperity Project advances TIGER's GOALS and is aligned with the Sustainable Communities Initiative**

Additional Background for the UniversityCity Prosperity Project

Why is this UniversityCity Prosperity Project TIGER Grant important?

- **Diversify Miami-Dade's economy** by creating a community that attracts and **retains talented innovators** who **transfer technology** from FIU into businesses near campus and elsewhere.
- **Transforms** western Miami-Dade County into a vibrant, livable, hub of cultural, educational, economic, and recreational activity; changing the place-brand or image of the area.
- **Supports FIU's growth** as the major provider of talented innovators in the region (150,000 alumni in South Florida) and as a major medical and research entity.
- Creates **positive economic development momentum** by helping to immediately move forward a major private development that sets the stage for continuing development thereafter. Total leveraged public and private investment over the next 10 years or more is expected to exceed \$500M when FIU liner buildings are developed (\$200.6M), MDT contributes towards ATMS development (\$0.150M) and Sweetwater redevelopment is expanded to include additional: City Hall parking structures (\$30M); mixed-use liner buildings (\$66.32M); and Main Street development (\$78M or more).

What does the TIGER proposal include?

- **Innovative and nationally replicable models** for Advanced Transit Oriented Developments (ATODs) and very advanced Informed Traveler Program and Applications (ITPA) and Mixed-Use Smart Garages with Intelligent Parking Systems technologies.
- These components interact to create synergistic results that will produce a **10% or more shift of trips** from cars to transit/biking/walking by creating intentionally designed public realm built environments that encourage walking longer distances and improve transit access.
- Smartphone-based ITPA and Mixed-Use Smart Garages are expected to **reduce travel time between regional destinations by 20% or more** by providing key predictive information in advance of travel decisions by car or transit.

Who are the partners, investors, and supporters?

- **FIU, City of Sweetwater, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Florida Department of Transportation District 6, and private development** as main project match funding contributors and partners have pledged \$125.45M in match funding.
- Letters of support from **transportation partners**: Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Transit, Miami-Dade Aviation Department, and the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership.
- **Private business** involvement by IBM, developers and local businesses. Strong interest from KUD and Forest City Enterprises. Celebrity investor in first mixed-use housing project.

Executive Summary:

Throughout the region, cities and neighborhoods are actively seeking to redefine themselves to align more closely to their human and material assets. The **UniversityCity Prosperity Project** seeks to begin such a transformation effort and envisions an economically robust, sustainable, affordable, and equitable community centered on Florida International University (FIU) as Miami-Dade County's (MDC) Anchor Public Institution for the global knowledge economy.

As FIU develops a new engagement strategy, it must find a way to ensure that the entire community can improve as a consequence of a civic-minded, forward-facing, and energized university that sees itself as a solutions center for 21st century challenges. The UniversityCity Prosperity Project will help transform the FIU/City of Sweetwater relationship from one of friendly neighbors to a truly unique and collaborative relationship that will create a growing and innovative community. This FY2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant submittal is an important part of this process and proposes to help achieve a shared community vision in two innovative ways.

First, an **Advanced Transit Oriented Development (ATOD)** for UniversityCity creates a best practice model for infrastructure improvements that help to shift trips away from private vehicles, while simultaneously supporting the economic growth related to a major public research university and adjacent small city. The ATOD strategically weaves together:

- vibrant and mixed-use pedestrian pathways and pedestrian bridges;
- high quality public spaces, Main Street, and multi-modal transit station environments;
- innovative transit greenways and mixed-mode streets;

04/16/2012 Talking Points, Additional Background & Executive Summary

- traffic-calmed streets, metered street parking, structure parking, and liner buildings;
- shared community transit local feeder vehicles;
- safe bike paths and multi-use corridors;
- private development projects that establish higher mixed-use residential densities; and,
- Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS) adjacent major expressways;
- express bus services that connect the ATMS with major intermodal facilities and operate with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) efficiencies given the various ATOD components.

The UniversityCity ATOD overcomes a number of very real pedestrian obstacles and encourages a significant modal shift from private vehicles to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit modes by those people who travel to or from FIU and Sweetwater and between the UniversityCity communities and the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) for at least some portion of their travel.

Secondly, the **Informed Traveler Program and Applications** (ITPA) provide personalized, accurate and timely information and advice regarding the most efficient and cost effective travel paths for consumers. This includes information about whether to use transit, delay your trip to avoid congestion, or take an alternate route to avoid construction, accident or other delays. This unique and innovative combination of technology and transit will be a first-of-its-kind effort that shall serve as a model for other communities throughout the nation. The software is predictive in nature, allowing users to make better travel decisions even before they get in their private vehicles. It also offers ITPA users express transit routes and faster parking in smart garages as major time savers. ITPA gives travelers both the information and the courage to change routes or take transit instead of following a reflective pattern of automotive travel.

Significant benefits include reductions in congestion, travel time, accidents, vehicle miles travelled, and travel costs for businesses and households. The UniversityCity Prosperity Project will demonstrate the connections between sustainability, innovative mobility, technology transfer, new urbanism/smart growth and equitable economic prosperity led by a major public research university. In a globally competitive knowledge economy, the project points the way forward.

At the same time, this is a **down-to-earth, near-term project addressing systemic and urgent problems** in western MDC. Communities such as Sweetwater and City of Doral (Doral) have used annexation and incorporation as a strategy to revitalize themselves and give shape to new opportunities for their residents. The rapid growth and expansion of nearby FIU, a public university whose enrollment is approaching 50,000, gives these cities and their neighbors an unprecedented opportunity to build new partnerships, generate fresh approaches to problem-solving, and improve their quality of life. This sustainable prosperity plan of FIU, Sweetwater, their partners and other participants fosters a more seamless campus-community dynamic that help fulfill the need for talent development, job creation, sustainability, enhanced public transportation, and new forms of residential and neighborhood development.

This unique combination of innovation and adaptive community building, with a **very strong and enthusiastic alliance of public and private participants**, will further the goals and principles of the Sustainable Communities Initiative and the TIGER program like nothing that has gone before it: Pedestrian-oriented urban design grounded in an uplifting socioeconomic mission and very smart artificial intelligence to optimize the day. Unique project roles and contributions include: the use of National Science Foundation Industry-University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement (I/UCRC-CAKE) as an organizational platform for expert multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations; IBM, as an I/UCRC-CAKE member, brings with it the world-class solutions from its Smarter Planet and Smarter Cities initiatives¹, private real estate developers are poised to invest over \$35 million in the first of many phases of mixed use projects; international business interests have begun discussions about future investments; and the entire MDC Congressional delegation has expressed their very strong support.

By using both infrastructural and electronic innovative constructs and engaging world-class partners and participants, FIU can build, at full scale, one of the most advanced sustainable communities living laboratories in the world.

¹ See <http://www.ibm.com/smarterplanet/us/en/overview/ideas/index.html?lnk=ussph1.16>; http://www.ibm.com/smarterplanet/us/en/smarter_cities/overview/index.html; and <https://smartercitieschallenge.org/about.html>.