March 19, 2012

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

Re: FY 2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), on behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (Partnership), is pleased to support Florida International University's application to the FYI 2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program in support of the proposed UniversityCity Prosperity Project.

In 2010, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, led by the South Florida Regional Planning Council in partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, was awarded a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (U.S. HUD). The Partnership is led by the SFRPC in conjunction with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Grant funds are being used to develop a “Regional Vision and Blueprint for Economic Prosperity” that will serve as a strategic plan to guide the creation of a more sustainable future for the more than 6 million residents in the seven county region comprised of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties.

It is our understanding that Florida International University, in partnership with the City of Sweetwater, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority and others, will use the requested funding and substantial local match to undertake a catalytic demonstration project that will showcase an innovative university-community partnership, and provide a replicable model for transforming older communities into more diverse, sustainable and economically prosperous communities featuring new housing, advanced mobility and educational opportunities.

c/o South Florida Regional Planning Council
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This project will be undertaken by Consortium and Partnership members and is supportive of the U.S. HUD’s Sustainable Communities Planning Grant program. It will significantly advance the work of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and the federal partnership’s livability principles.

We respectfully request your support. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Cosio Carballo
Director of Public Affairs
U.S. HUD Designated Sustainable Communities Contact