March 15, 2012

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

Subject: FY 2012 TIGER 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:

- Research and develop technology for a robust Sustainable Informed Traveler Program (SITP) pilot project so it can be deployed initially for: FIU students, faculty, employees and visitors; Sweetwater residents, employers, employees and visitors; and, the most frequent users of the Dolphin Expressway (SR-836) and Airport Expressway (SR-112).
- Develop pedestrian-oriented and multimodal infrastructural improvements including:
  - an Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS);
  - an ATMS terminal and related mixed-use pedestrian-oriented areas; an Advanced Pedestrian-Oriented Complete Streets (APOCS) network along and adjacent to SW 109th Avenue consisting of: traffic-calmed streets; pedestrian plazas, corridors and boardwalks; pedestrian-oriented parking structures, mixed-use development, transit greenways (linear parks with transit running through it), and mixed-mode streets (without access for automotive traffic) in the City of Sweetwater and FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus; and,
  - an initial transit greenway system spanning the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Sweetwater.

MDX intends to partner with FIU for initial work in an amount approximately $265,000 that is to be undertaken by the research personnel at the National Science Foundation’s Industry-University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement at FIU and the FIU’s Integrated Intelligent Transportation System Laboratory at the Lehman Center for Transportation Research.
FIU will be undertaking these efforts so that it can better define the work plan and way ahead for research and technology development that would:
- oblige all SITP related TIGER funds by June 30, 2013;
- establish a proof of concept on or about December 2013; and,
- identify the steps needed to be undertaken for the deployment of a robust pilot SITP project by or about December 2014.

This initial work would begin immediately after FIU receives the announcement of a TIGER award and the federal funding becomes available from FY2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant proceeds. MDX understands that, after it authorizes FIU to commence this initial $265,000 of work, that FIU will also be expending approximately $8 million in FY2012 TIGER funds that have been requested by FIU. FIU will undertake SITP research and technology development efforts as necessary to develop with IBM, MDX, and others the SITP technology that represents an adequate proof of concept that STIP can be effectively deployed.

Once the proof of concept has been established, MDX and FIU will jointly identify an additional $10 million in funding sources necessary to deploy a robust STIP pilot project that focuses on the providing for the multimodal transportation information needs of people traveling between FIU, the City of Sweetwater and the Miami Intermodal Center.

These SITP and other University-City Prosperity Project improvements would be undertaken upon the award of the FIU requested FY 2012 TIGER Discretionary 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 and MDX as a FY2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant submittal. Both of these proposals would enhance the mobility of Miami-Dade County.

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,

Javier Rodriguez, P.E.
Executive Director