



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

March 19, 2012

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

Subject: FY2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant Application for Miami-Dade Transit

Dear Secretary LaHood,

Florida International University (FIU) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Service Project as proposed by Miami-Dade Transit.

MDT's grant application includes service from western Miami-Dade County destinations including FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus, the FIU Engineering Center, and the Miami-Intermodal Center (MIC). The linkage between FIU and the MIC is a key component that benefits all transportation partners since, from this intermodal center, all travelers can access the:

- MIA Mover to the Miami International Airport for state, national, and international destinations;
- South Florida's commuter rail system (Tri-Rail) for regional destinations;
- Metrorail, Metrobus, Airport Flyer, Kendall Cruiser, South Miami-Dade Busway, and 95 Express to many Miami Dade County metropolitan destinations.

The future growth and success of our region depends on the safe and efficient movement of our traveling public. The new SR-836 Express enhanced Bus Service represents a long awaited opportunity to connect the westernmost part of Miami-Dade County, FIU, and the newly constructed Miami Intermodal Center. This new service will connect residential, employment, educational, and transportation centers and will provide our communities with a safe and efficient alternative to driving.

FIU will collaborate with MDT so that all Express Bus Services compliment and optimize transit services to the community and we look forward to making arrangements for the SR-836 Express Enhanced Bus Service to use the Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station proposed on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus along with the Panther Express.

Significant project benefits include increased transportation options, improved level of service, reduced vehicle miles traveled, and vehicle costs savings to communities. We strongly believe that these benefits will significantly 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 (305) 348-2101 or email kjessell@fiu.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. A. Jessell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kenneth A. Jessell, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and CFO