



Jose "Pepe" Diaz
COMMISSIONER

Board of County Commissioners
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY – FLORIDA

DISTRICT 12
111 N.W. FIRST STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128-1963
(305) 375-4343
FAX (305) 470-1791
E-MAIL: district12@miamidade.gov

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

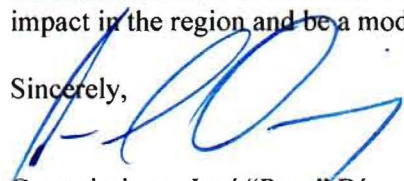
As a current Miami-Dade County Commissioner and former Mayor of the City of Sweetwater, I am writing in strong support of UniversityCity. This project is an innovative interconnected vision for Western Miami-Dade County that would be propelled by two related grant applications submitted by Florida International University (FIU) and Miami-Dade County, Florida, in partnership with the City of Sweetwater, Florida and the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) under the fourth round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program.

It is my hope that the Department will give the strongest consideration to this innovative project which will include the implementation of an Advanced Transit Multimodal Station (ATMS) on the FIU campus and a high-tech predictive Informed Traveler program of national significance. Additionally, the project will provide innovative transportation improvements to the City of Sweetwater to support a robust Express Bus Rapid Transit line along SR-836 in Miami-Dade County.

Following the principles of sustainable and livable communities, community improvements will be implemented to create better bike and walking pathways for pedestrians, as well as innovative components such as mixed-mode corridors for additional other small community transit vehicles. Mixed-use pathways will not only connect the ATMS on FIU's main campus with a traffic-calmed Main Street in Sweetwater but also spur economic development and attractive, affordable housing options in the City.

As the Department of Transportation works to make investments in our nation's infrastructure that make communities more livable and sustainable, I urge support of UniversityCity, which will make significant impact in the region and be a model for the nation.

Sincerely,



Commissioner José "Pepe" Díaz
District 12
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
111 N.W. First Street, Suite 320
Miami, FL 33128