

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

March 15, 2012

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I would like to bring to your attention Miami-Dade County's grant applications for the NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue Enhanced Bus and SR 836 Express Enhanced Bus projects under the fourth round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity express the County's support for the Florida International University's (FIU) UniversityCity project.

UniversityCity, in partnership with the City of Sweetwater, Florida and the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX), is a proposed project that would include the implementation of an Advanced Transit Multimodal Station (ATMS) on the FIU campus; a high-tech predictive Informed Traveler program of national significance; innovative transportation improvements to the City of Sweetwater; all of which will compliment the SR 836 Express Enhanced Bus project along SR-836 in Miami-Dade County which is one of Miami-Dade County's grant applications for TIGER IV.

This proposed multi-modal hub could potentially support economic development and may promote increased ridership on the SR 836 Express Enhanced Bus project resulting in an innovative Bus Rapid Transit system in Miami-Dade County.

I urge the Department to give the strongest consideration to these innovative, complimentary projects.

Sincerely

Carlos A. Gimenez

Mayor