



Office of the Chair
Chairman Joe A. Martinez
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

March 15, 2012

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

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As all levels of government work collaboratively to help restore our economy, support jobs and solve our transportation challenges, I write today in support of two unique applications that interrelate to reach those same goals and would become a model with national impact.

Two TIGER Applications submitted by Miami-Dade County Transit and Florida International University will help connect significant eastern and western Miami-Dade County communities and destinations, including the new Miami Intermodal Center at Miami International Airport. These two complementary proposals represent a unique university, governmental and private sector, collaboration that leverages world-class transit and information technology, with sustainable community interactions to create a cost-effective, practical, and comprehensive approach to urban mobility and economic development.

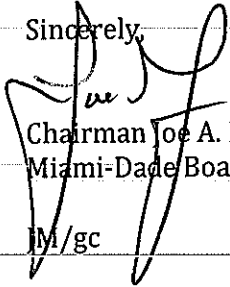
With the County's TIGER Grant application, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) will ensure that the deployment of Express Enhanced Bus Service on State Road 836 is integrated into this initiative. Additionally, Miami-Dade County, as a partner in FIU's application, is committed to provide viable and economically feasible transportation options for our citizens that not only ease congestion, but connect commercial sectors, affordable housing and community transit hubs, like FIU.

The leveraged investments are not ours alone. The University is committed to invest in the development of an Advanced Transit and Multimodal Station (ATMS) on the main campus, which is the academic, cultural, event and athletic center of western Miami-Dade County. International Business Machines (IBM) will leverage technologies, and expertise to deploy an informed traveler program (ITP). The City of Sweetwater, Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation, District 6 are also partners in the project.

FIU, one of our community's anchor partners and economic engines, has helped support our county's infrastructure and transportation planning for many years and with great impact. Testament to this fact is their selection to be partners in 3 out of 22 recently announced University Transportation Centers. With both of these TIGER grant applications, there exists also an immediate, regional opportunity for FIU to apply its research with local partners like Miami-Dade County in providing meaningful solutions.

I urge support of both TIGER grants which will make a significant impact in the region and be a model for the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe A. Martinez', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Joe A. Martinez
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

JM/gc