2013 TIGER/UniversityCity Summary

1. Thank you for making our 2013 TIGER/UniversityCity submittal to US DOT your priority based on its significance to the Southeast Florida Region.

2. The efforts to develop the UniversityCity improvements have now been underway for more than 6 years and that visioning effort has extended from Sweetwater and FIU’s Maidique Campus to the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) and to Miami Beach at the Lincoln Road Mall (where FIU’s College of Architecture + The Arts facilities provide a design studio for students in architecture, interior design, and landscape architecture, a gallery and studio space for graduate visual arts students, and music practice rooms and ensemble room that enhance the College’s collaboration with the nearby New World Symphony). UniversityCity will improve access other FIU Miami Beach facilities (Wolfsonian Museum and the Jewish Museum of Florida) through existing transit opportunities, including use of the South Beach Local (Route 123).

3. FIU has begun planning efforts for a new mixed-use parking Garage (PG6) adjacent US 41 that will provide space for an innovative multimodal station that will fit well with the Miami-Dade Transit efforts to deploy enhanced express bus service between MIC, FIU and other western Miami-Dade communities.

4. FIU’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (Wertheim COM) has graduated it first class of 33 new physicians and the ongoing FIU capital program, augmented with the 2013 TIGER/UniversityCity project, will continue the development of the physical plant necessary to support what will become a billion dollar health care economic development cluster.

5. The 2013 TIGER/UniversityCity grant represents one more important part of the puzzle to develop a prosperous Southeast Florida Region with the necessary FIU linkages (via access to an enhanced express and community transit station, use of a state-of-the-art Informed Traveler Program and Applications multimodal wayfinding system, and development of pedestrian-oriented mixed-use multimodal street and plaza improvements within the UniversityCity project site) to:
   - **Sweetwater** (via complete street improvements of SW 109th Avenue, street crossing improvements at the US 41 intersection, and a wide shared-use single pylon cable-stayed bridge across US 41 to provide an integrated and safe walking platform combined with community transit and proposed parking shuttle service to span the distance between Sweetwater’s City Hall and FIU’s Green Library)
   - **Miami Beach** via express bus services (proposed 836 Express funded to start operations in 2016 per http://www.miamidade.gov/citt/library/5_year_plan/rapid_transit_improvements.pdf and the currently operational Airport Flyer at http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/routes_detail.asp?route=150)
   - **Southeast Florida** and beyond via the MIC, MIA Mover, MIA, Metrorail, Metromover, Tri-Tail and Amtrak services

See 2013 TIGER/UniversityCity Graphic