May 28, 2013

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

Subject: FY2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant Application for FIU UniversityCity Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Florida International University (FIU) UniversityCity Prosperity Project.

FIU's FY2013 TIGER/UniversityCity Prosperity Project grant application includes an Advanced Intermodal and Multimodal Station (AIMS) located adjacent SR-90/US-41/SW 8th Street just west of the SW 109th Avenue intersection. This multimodal center is a key component that benefits all transportation partners.

The future growth and success of our Southeast Florida region depends on the safe and efficient movement of our traveling public. This new pedestrian-oriented and inter-institutional multimodal station represents a great opportunity to connect the westernmost part of Miami-Dade County with FIU and the newly constructed Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) at Miami-International Airport (MIA) via MDT's new SR 836 Express Enhanced Bus Service route. It further provides linkages with FIU's Golden Panther Express that currently operates between Modesto A. Maidique Campus in western Miami-Dade County to the Biscayne Bay Campus in North Miami, Florida (on the Intracoastal Waterway in eastern Miami-Dade County).

These new routes will connect residential, employment, educational, and transportation centers. With FIU's proposed Informed Traveler Program and Applications (ITPA), these routes will optimize many Southeast Florida trips to FIU, MIA, and MIC and will provide our communities with a safe and efficient alternative to driving their cars. MDT will continue to coordinate with FIU and others involved in these UniversityCity Prosperity Project so that the SR 836 Express Enhanced Bus Service and the Golden Panther Express complement and do not compete with each other and together improve mass transit services to the public.
Significant project benefits include increased transportation options, improved level-of-service, reduction in vehicle miles traveled, and vehicle cost savings to commuters. We anticipate that these benefits will 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 question or need additional information, please contact me at 786 469-5406 or email yllort@miamidade.gov.

Sincerely,

Ysela Llort
Director, Miami Dade Transit