May 29, 2013

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in strong support of the FY2013 TIGER Grant application being submitted the University City Coalition, led by Florida International University (FIU) and its partners, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX), Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Transportation, the City of Sweetwater, Florida and IBM. This proposal seeks to deploy innovative transportation solutions for the University City initiative, and in turn, spur economic development in Miami-Dade County and the Southeast Florida region.

As an organization that is keenly aware of both the economic needs and entrepreneurial potential of South Florida, it is my trust that the Department will give considerable thought to these innovative and resourceful projects that do have economic development and job creation as core goals.

The implementation of an Advanced Transit Multimodal Station (ATMS) on the FIU campus, a high-tech predictive Informed Traveler program, and a robust Express Bus Rapid Transit line along SR-836 will go far in connecting our residents to key corridors in the community. The proposed TIGER grant would allow for these components to be interconnected and provide reliable transportation options from Western Miami-Dade County to the Miami Intermodal Complex (MIC) and locations elsewhere.

This chamber of commerce has been an ardent advocate of the department’s key initiatives such as Sustainable Communities and efforts at High Speed Rail, and provide you every confidence that these recent submissions will also provide the department with models for nationally significant innovation.

As the Department of Transportation considers among many worthy applicants, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce eagerly supports these proposals for the potential they hold to connect our communities and develop our regional economy.

Sincerely,

Barry E. Johnson
President/CEO