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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As a current Miami-Dade County Commissioner and former Mayor of the City of Sweetwater, I am writing in strong support of UniversityCity. This project aims to make possible an innovative interconnected vision for Western Miami-Dade County that would be propelled into a public-private partnership that includes Florida International University (FIU) and Miami-Dade County, Florida, in partnership with the City of Sweetwater, Florida, the Florida Department of Transportation District 6, IBM, TY Lyn, and the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) under the fifth round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program.

It is my hope that the Department will seriously consider this innovative project which will include the implementation of a state-of-the-art predictive Informed Traveler program of national significance and a new mixed-use parking garage that will provide space for Miami-Dade Transit to deploy enhanced express bus service between the Miami Intermodal Center, FIU, and other western Miami-Dade Communities. Additionally, the project will provide innovative transportation improvements to the City of Sweetwater and augment FIU in the development of the infrastructure necessary to support what will become a billion dollar healthcare economic development center.

Following the principles of sustainable and livable communities, community improvements will be implemented to create better bike and walking pathways for pedestrians, as well as innovative components such as mixed-mode corridors for other additional small community transit vehicles. The community as a whole will benefit from the construction of a pedestrian-oriented bridge that will span the distance from Sweetwater’s City Hall to FIU’s Green Library.

As the Department of Transportation works to make investments in our nation's infrastructure that make communities more livable and sustainable, I urge support of UniversityCity, which will have significant impact in the Southeast Florida region, and be a model for the entire nation.

Sincerely,

Jose "Pepe" Diaz  
Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners  
District 12