June 3, 2013

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

Re: FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program and FIU’s UniversityCity submittal

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), on behalf of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership (Partnership), is pleased to support Florida International University’s application to the FY2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant program in support of the proposed UniversityCity Prosperity Project.

In 2010, the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership, led by South Florida Regional Planning Council, in partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), was awarded a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (U.S. HUD). The Partnership is led by the SFRPC in conjunction with the TCRPC. Grant funds are being used to develop the Seven50: SE Florida Prosperity Plan that will serve as a strategic plan to guide the creation of a more sustainable future for the more than 6 million residents in the seven county region comprising of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties, and the more than 2 million new residents expected in the region by 2060.

It is our understanding that Florida International University, in partnership with the City of Sweetwater, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Florida Department of Transportation District 6, and others will use the requested funding and substantial local match to undertake a catalytic project that will showcase an innovative university-community partnership and provide a replicable model for transforming older communities into more diverse, sustainable and economically prosperous communities featuring new housing, advanced mobility and educational opportunities.

This UniversityCity project will be undertaken by Consortium and Partnership members and is supportive of U.S. HUD’s Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program. We are delighted to support this project as it will significantly advance the work of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership and the federal partnership’s livability principles.

We respectfully request your support. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Cosio Carballo
SFRPC Director of Public Affairs
SE Florida Regional Partnership Coordinator
U.S. HUD Designated Sustainable Communities Contact