



September 22, 2009

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SEP 28 2009

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

Mayor Joe Affronti, Sr.
City of Temple Terrace
MPO Chairman

Commissioner Rose Ferlita
Hillsborough County
MPO Vice Chairman

RE: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery
(TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program – Tampa-Hillsborough
County Expressway Authority Application

Commissioner Kevin Beckner
Hillsborough County

Councilman Joseph Caetano
City of Tampa

Councilman John Dingfelder
HART

Commissioner Ken Hagan
Hillsborough County

Mayor Rick A. Lott
City of Plant City

Louis Miller
Hillsborough Co. Aviation Authority

Councilwoman Mary Mulhern
City of Tampa

Councilman Tom Scott
City of Tampa

Commissioner Mark Sharpe
Hillsborough County

Joseph Waggoner
Expressway Authority

Richard Wainio
Tampa Port Authority

Hung T. Mai, P.E. (Ex-Officio)
The Planning Commission

Donald J. Skelton, P.E. (Ex-Officio)
FDOT, District Seven

Ramond A. Chiamonte, AICP
Executive Director

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization supports the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority's application for TIGER Discretionary Grant funding for the Selmon Crosstown Expressway Downtown Viaduct Project, per action of the MPO Board on September 22, 2009.

The deck replacement and widening to a six-lane roadway will facilitate the continued growth and economic vitality of the center of our region, and improve an important emergency evacuation facility for South Tampa and neighboring Pinellas County. The project will also include a new multi-use trail through our Downtown, a concept supported by members of our Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The project will improve multi-modal connectivity, create new jobs, and serve as an economic catalyst for the City of Tampa and the greater Tampa Bay Region.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the Expressway Authority's efforts to implement this important project.

Sincerely,

Mayor Joe Affronti, Sr.,
Chairman

cc: Joseph Waggoner, Director, THEAV

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