



# CITY OF TAMPA

Pam Iorio, Mayor

September 14, 2009

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

Re: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)  
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary  
Grants Program - Hillsborough County Expressway Authority Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the City of Tampa, I would like to formally submit our full endorsement for the ARRA TIGER Grants Program Application submitted by the Hillsborough County Expressway Authority. The LeRoy Selmon Crosstown Expressway Downtown Viaduct project will create new jobs, improve connectivity within the city, and serve as an economic catalyst for both the City of Tampa and the West Central Florida region.

The deck replacement and viaduct widening to a six-lane roadway will help prepare us for the projected growth of our region as well as provide an important link in the emergency evacuation route for South Tampa and neighboring Pinellas County. Additionally, our Greenway and Trails Citizen Advisory Committee unanimously supported another key element of this project, the Downtown Greenway multi-use trail. It coincides perfectly and compliments our own TIGER Grant application for a key Riverwalk segment that would also link to this proposed urban trail.

We believe this project will improve the quality of life for residents, employees and visitors by providing a multi-modal transportation corridor that improves accessibility for automobiles, transit patrons, pedestrians, and bicyclists to key downtown destinations and beyond. The City of Tampa is committed to working with the Expressway Authority to help implement the project outlined in their grant proposal.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Hillsborough County Expressway Authority's TIGER Discretionary Grants application.

Sincerely,

Pam Iorio

PI:dhs

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