



September 11, 2009

Joseph Waggoner, Executive Director  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
1104 East Twiggs Street, Suite 300  
Tampa, FL 33602

Mr. Waggoner,

As a key leader in our community, we would like to formally submit our full endorsement for your American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program Application Submittal. The Selmon 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.

We understand the importance of enhancing this vital emergency evacuation route for a two county area as well as assuring the expressway can handle future growth, including the new I-4/Selmon Expressway Connector project that our community has rallied behind for so many years.

It makes sense to replace the deck and widen the viaduct simultaneously for the cost benefits your agency will realize. We also appreciate only having to put our downtown commuters through the construction process once.

We are most excited about a key element of the project -the Downtown segment of the Crosstown Greenway, a multiuse trail that will use the existing Expressway Authority rights-of-way to connect residents and visitors to downtown employment, entertainment, and educational venues. It is a key connector to a larger city-wide trails network that includes the Downtown Riverwalk, the Meridian Street Greenway, and Bayshore Boulevard that are proximate to or within Downtown.

The project supports a multimodal and integrated transportation system in Downtown by providing direct pedestrian and bicycle connections to our In Town neighborhoods, the Franklin Street Retail Corridor, the Marion Street Transit Parkway, Historic Streetcar and future rail alignments, and a planned regional water borne transportation system.

It is our intention to work closely with the Expressway Authority to help implement and educate citizens about these much needed projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith G. Greminger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Greminger  
Chairperson  
Tampa Downtown Partnership