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August 18, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TXDOT) application for Tiger II discretionary funds to support the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project.


Tower 55 is a critically important freight and passenger rail gateway located along a key transportation trade corridor connecting the United States, Mexico and Canada. It has also become one of the most congested rail chokepoints in the nation's supply chain. Twelve major freight and passenger rail lines from across the country converge at Tower 55 into a single, four way at-grade intersection. More than 100 passenger and freight trains must travel through the intersection every day.

As proposed by TXDOT, and in partnership with BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak and the City of Forth Worth, the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project will simultaneously address a number of key challenges for the local community, state and surrounding region. It will greatly enhance rail and motorist transportation flows through and around the intersection, improvements which will be felt up and down the affected trade corridors; address community safety and livability concerns; and promote national goals of energy savings and environmental conservation. The project epitomizes a successful public private partnership, taking a carefully studied approach to achieve the shared long term objectives of all stakeholders in this investment.

TXDOT has made Tower 55 the highest priority infrastructure project in the state and we strongly encourage your careful consideration of the pending Tiger II grant application. With its potential for immediate job creation and longer term economic, energy, environmental and safety benefits, we believe the project is well positioned to compete in this Tiger funding round.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this project. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Tommy Williams  
Chairman