



August 18, 2010

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the City Council and citizens of Fort Worth, I wish to express my support for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) application for Tiger II discretionary funds to support the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project. Indicating our support for this vital transportation initiative, the City of Fort Worth is pledging \$1 million towards the local match described in the Tiger II funding application.

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 passengers and freight trains must travel through this intersection every day.

As proposed by TxDOT, in partnership with BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, AMTRAK, and the City of Fort Worth, the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project will simultaneously address a number of key challenges facing our nation and the North Texas community, such as:

- More efficient passage of passenger and freight rail traffic through the Tower 55 rail intersection by avoiding rerouting;
- Important safety and quality of life improvements for those living along the rail lines that run through out city – currently school students must crawl under trains to make their way home from nearby Nash Elementary School;
- Vital environmental concerns created by idling trains awaiting their turn to pass through the Tower 55 intersection; and,
- Significant energy savings resulting from a more efficient passage of train traffic through Tower 55

MIKE MONCRIEF, MAYOR

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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 of Texas and we strongly encourage your careful consideration of the pending Tiger II grant application. With its potential for immediate job creation and long term economic, energy, environmental, and safety benefits, we believe this project is well positioned to compete in this round of Tiger funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this project. Should you wish to tour the Tower 55 rail intersection and/or further discuss this project, please feel free to contact my office as we would be pleased to host you in Fort Worth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Moncrief". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Moncrief" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Moncrief
Mayor