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S10-090915-064

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September 9, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I believe that intelligent transportation and infrastructure investments are a great way to boost local and regional economies. I am writing to support funding applications for such investments in my district.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' (COG) Regional Transportation Council, which is the transportation arm of my region's metropolitan planning organization, will soon submit its list of transportation and infrastructure projects that it deems eligible and worthy of receiving Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

I wish to express my support for the COG's list, particularly the projects impacting my district. I hope that you will give these projects particular consideration as the Department reviews projects for discretionary grants under the TIGER program.

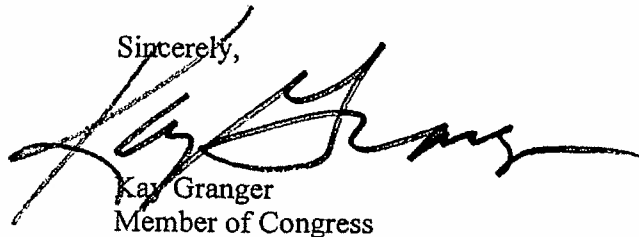
- 1) **Regional Accessibility to Downtown Dallas and Fort Worth** – This joint project request between the City of Dallas and the City of Fort Worth proposes the complete integration of housing, employment and rail transit through the linkage of respective downtowns and their urban neighborhoods. This project meets 100 percent of the TIGER criteria as part of the Livability Principles, established by DOT, HUD and EPA. The grant would fund the final design and construction of modern streetcar systems and bridge crossings across the Trinity River in each city to link mixed use neighborhoods with employment centers. The City of Fort Worth is committing over \$90 million toward this project.
- 2) **IH 35W / IH 820 Interchange** – This joint project request combines efforts of 22 public and private entities to improve links between residents and jobs, and increases the reliability of transportation systems by relieving congestion in a major access point to an area with expanding industrial and employment opportunities.
- 3) **Tower 55 At-Grade Improvement Project** – Tower 55 is one of the busiest at-grade rail intersections in the U.S. This project, which has been planned by public and private sector partners, would improve transportation efficiency for hundreds of businesses and thousands of passengers that rely on cost-effective rail in the region. This project would accommodate a more than 33 percent increase in train counts

versus current volumes, directly impacting 1,400 jobs and resulting in nearly \$210 million in economic impact. Once rail improvements are constructed, all maintenance would be privately funded.

- 4) **SH 121 (Southwest Parkway) from South of Overton Ridge Blvd. to Altamesa Blvd.** – The Southwest Parkway is part of a regionally planned freeway/tollway system that, in anticipation of the opening of this roadway, has attracted commercial, mixed use developments that are expected to contribute to the local tax base and economic growth of south Fort Worth. This section of the project would create approximately 3,500 jobs in the local community and would construct a six-lane tollway. The Parkway will utilize several innovative solutions such as the Intelligent Transportation Systems and All-Electronic Toll Collections to support a transportation system that avoids the delays due to traditional toll booth conditions. Completion of such a project would enable commuting workers better, more reliable transportation alternatives into Fort Worth's downtown business center.
- 5) **SH 121/DFW Connector from Tarrant County Line to near Denton Creek** – This project, located adjacent to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, provides needed congestion relief and enhances connections between residents and retail, commercial and industrial jobs. By adding six lanes to the existing four freeway lanes, the improved transportation connections will promote further industrial and retail development at D/FW Airport and in nearby commercial, industrial and retail complexes.
- 6) **IH 30 HOV Managed Lanes** – A priority for the regional mobility plan, this project adds toll gantries and direct connections to fully implement HOV/managed lanes in the IH 30 corridor, which connects the metropolitan cities of Fort Worth and Dallas, TX. This project would improve interstate capacity by moving high occupancy and express traffic to HOV/managed lanes and improving goods movement and commuter transportation to spur economic growth. Further, this project will reduce traffic collisions, congestion, and will improve air quality.

Thank you for your consideration of these projects, which will greatly improve the lives of my constituents. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Rachel Carter on my staff at 202-225-5071 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Kay Granger
Member of Congress