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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0914

September 8, 2009

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I would like to express my support for Charlotte County, Florida's application under the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program for \$29 million to build the Southwest Florida Intermodal and Logistics Center and modernize railroad infrastructure. I am confident that a federal investment in this project will yield a multitude of environmental, safety, economic and mobility benefits to the residents of Southwest Florida, fulfilling several objectives of the TIGER program.

Charlotte County's proposed project includes a truck to rail transfer facility and railroad upgrades that would introduce high volume, high speed rail transportation into Southwest Florida. Enhanced rail speed and capacity will encourage the transportation of freight by train rather than heavy trucks making Southwest Florida's roadways safer for cars. Furthermore, this project will establish a connection between Southwest Florida economic centers and the seaports of Tampa and Manatee counties, advancing the region's economic competitiveness.

This project is shovel-ready and will facilitate the transportation of goods and people throughout Southwest Florida, spurring economic development in a region crucial to the economic health of the state. These aspects make Charlotte County's project an excellent candidate for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which was designed in part to encourage economic growth through investments in infrastructure. Any consideration that you are able to give to this application would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Connie Mack  
Member of Congress