

THOMAS J. ROONEY
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ARMED SERVICES

JUDICIARY

S10-090901-094

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

August 28, 2009

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

RE: Support for Charlotte County, FL's TIGER Grant Application

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, reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and 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,



Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

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House of Representatives
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The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Charlotte County, FL Community Redevelopment
Association's TIGER Grant Application**

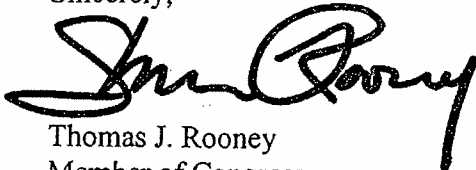
Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support for the **Charlotte County Community Redevelopment Association** (CCCRA)'s application for \$5 million under the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program. I believe that CCCRA's proposal to facilitate waterfront access to Charlotte Harbor by **building the Gateway Harbor Walk** will dramatically enhance residents' quality of life and is worthy of receiving a waiver of the \$20 million minimum grant requirement under the TIGER program.

The Gateway Harbor Walk project includes the construction of waterfront sidewalks, a boardwalk and the replacement of the Melbourne Street Bridge, which is classified as structurally deficient. When completed, this project will provide continuous access between two parks on the Charlotte Harbor waterfront and improve safety for visitors to the waterfront. The Gateway Harbor Walk project will also continue CCCRA's commitment to promoting clean energy by providing recharging facilities for electric vehicles.

I am proud to support CCCRA's application for a TIGER grant and their request that the \$20 million minimum be waived. The Gateway Harbor Walk project offers an impressive array of environmental, economic and safety benefits that make it an ideal candidate for a small TIGER grant. Any consideration that you are able to give to this application would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress