

SUBCOMMITTEES:

COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND
THE INTERNET
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTIONCOMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
DEPUTY RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

September 14, 2009

CLIFF STEARNS

6TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

WASHINGTON:

2370 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0906

(202) 225-5744

FAX: (202) 225-3973

www.house.gov/stearns

AIR FORCE CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY
DISEASE CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

CYSTIC FIBROSIS CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

CONGRESSIONAL HORSE
CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please accept this letter expressing my strong support for the Jacksonville Port Authority's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)* Grant program. Their \$79 million project will rebuild critical infrastructure and simultaneously create approximately 1,400 direct jobs, as well as sustain the thousands of existing jobs already dependent upon the Port's commercial and military freight transport operations.

As you well know, JAXPORT is a vital part of Florida's economic health. The Port's cargo and cruise operations support 65,000 jobs across the region and generate a total of \$19 billion in annual economic impact, according to a 2009 Martin Associates study. Currently the country's second largest handler of cars, trucks and other vehicles, JAXPORT has positioned itself to become the largest container port in Florida over the next several years with the development of two new, state-of-the-art Asian terminals, one of which opened in January of this year, and the second which is scheduled to open by 2013.

However, at over 40 years of age, existing infrastructure at two of the Port's older terminals is in desperate need of upgrades. In 2007, during a comprehensive facility study, extensive corrosion to the steel sheet pile walls was discovered at a number of the wharfs. Also referred to as berths, these structures bear the weight of cargo, and related equipment, during the loading and unloading of a vessel. JAXPORT's berths were originally built in the 1960's and 1970's, and were designed to support an outdated standard of 800 pounds per square foot (PSF). Today, the minimum standard is 1,000 PSF.

To maintain its status as one of Florida's primary economic engines, JAXPORT needs your support in securing funding to rebuild the four most critical berths. Should the structures fail, JAXPORT and private sector companies risk the loss of their current revenue streams and the jobs they support. Aside from the obvious long term commercial and economic impacts, our national security will also be compromised. The Department of Defense designated JAXPORT

 OCALA115 S.E. 25TH AVENUE
OCALA, FL 34471
(352) 351-8777 GAINESVILLE5700 S.W. 34TH STREET, #425
GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
(352) 337-0003 ORANGE PARK1726 KINGSLEY AVENUE, #8
ORANGE PARK, FL 32073
(904) 269-3203

as one of 15 Strategic Seaports, utilizing its berths and equipment to deploy critical military equipment during times of war and peace.

Greater load-bearing capacities at the berths will strengthen the Port's ability to handle diversified cargos and thus increase wharf usage. The project is an important step towards Jacksonville's ultimate goal of becoming America's Logistics Center.

Please join me in supporting JAXPORT's request for funding and ensure the future prosperity and continued job creation in northeast Florida.

Sincerely,



Cliff Stearns
United States Representative

CC: R. Ferrin, JAXPORT

CS:jet

CLIFF STEARNS

6TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

WASHINGTON:

2370 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0906

(202) 225-5744
FAX: (202) 225-3973

www.house.gov/stearns

AIR FORCE CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY
DISEASE CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

CYSTIC FIBROSIS CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

CONGRESSIONAL HORSE
CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

November 17, 2009

S10-091123-018

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND
THE INTERNET
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
DEPUTY RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to you to communicate my strong support for the application submitted by the Jacksonville ~~Airport Authority~~ (JAA) for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant (TIGER).

The Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) is a vital component of the nation's transportation system, serving as the primary commercial airport for the City of Jacksonville, all of northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. Eleven airlines currently provide service between JIA and more than 30 markets. In 2008, JIA served over 3 million enplaned passengers and handled more than 80 million pounds of enplaned freight.

The proposed 3.5 mile mainline road will complete the linkage for truck traffic southbound on Interstate 95, providing a parallel alternative access route to JIA while enabling truck traffic to enter the air cargo terminal area separate from the primary passenger route. The additional road will reduce traffic delays, increase the airport's capacity to accommodate growth projections and assure the safety of the traveling public by reducing the interface of truck and passenger traffic.

While 421 construction jobs will be created in the short term during construction, the new road will promote the creation of an estimated 68,000 jobs over a 20-year build-out by opening up surrounding areas for industrial and commercial development.

Planning for this access road has been underway for many years and much progress has been made with a combination of federal, state and local funds. The project is already 50 percent through the design process and right-of-way acquisition is currently underway. Construction could begin within nine months of the receipt of TIGER funds once right-of-way acquisition is complete. The project is endorsed by both the State of Florida and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization.

OCALA

115 S.E. 25TH AVENUE
OCALA, FL 34471
(352) 351-8777

GAINESVILLE

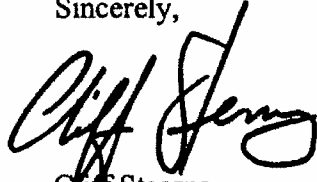
5700 S.W. 34TH STREET, #426
GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
(352) 337-0003

ORANGE PARK

1728 KINGSLEY AVENUE, #B
ORANGE PARK, FL 32073
(904) 269-3203

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of the merits of this important Florida economic recovery and transportation project for my congressional district and all of northeast Florida.
With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff Stearns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cliff Stearns
United States Representative

CS:jet

CLIFF STEARNS

6TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

WASHINGTON:

2370 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0906

(202) 225-5744
FAX: (202) 225-3973

www.house.gov/stearns

AIR FORCE CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

**CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY
DISEASE CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN**

CYSTIC FIBROSIS CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN

**CONGRESSIONAL HORSE
CAUCUS, Co-CHAIRMAN**



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0906

November 17, 2009

S10-091123-019

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND
THE INTERNET
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
DEPUTY RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to extend my firm support for the application that the **City of Gainesville, Florida** recently submitted to your Department for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant competition. The City has submitted an application for an important initiative designed **to reduce congestion and increase safety on the regional, state and federal transportation systems in and around the Gainesville Metropolitan Area.**

The **SW 62nd Blvd Connector** is a project of regional significance with the goal of reducing congestion along portions of Interstate 75 and Florida State Roads 24, 26 and 121. Each of these roads exists as a vital regional connector that is currently over capacity during significant time periods each day. Traffic backups on these roads, in particular on I-75, pose real risks to the safety of drivers, as well as impede the flow of interstate commerce. This project has strong community support and reflects the joint efforts of public agencies to address mobility needs in the metropolitan area. In addition, it aligns with recent efforts by the Florida Department of Transportation to address mobility needs in the I-75 corridor.

The **SW 62nd Blvd Connector** will enhance system connectivity and expand modal transportation choices increasing mobility and accessibility to all users. The initiative focuses on the construction of a four-lane multimodal facility that expands the transportation network implementing innovative traffic management techniques and creating opportunity for future implementation of a bus rapid transit (BRT) system. As such it achieves the community's redevelopment objectives and ARRA goals by generating employment opportunities, increasing community livability and fostering regional economic growth.

OCALA

115 S.E. 25TH AVENUE
OCALA, FL 34471
(352) 351-8777

GAINESVILLE

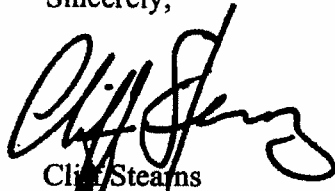
5700 S.W. 34TH STREET, #426
GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
(352) 337-0003

ORANGE PARK

1728 KINGSLEY AVENUE, #8
ORANGE PARK, FL 32073
(904) 269-3203

With improvements to our highway infrastructure of tantamount importance as we attempt to not only create the jobs that will help us emerge from the ongoing economic downturn, but also improve driver safety, I fully support the City of Gainesville's TIGER grant application. I trust that after a thorough review, it will be given every favorable consideration. With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Cliff Stearns
United States Representative

CS:jet