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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910

September 28, 2009

S10-091006-084

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The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-9898

RE: **Pinellas County USDOT "TIGER Grants for Surface Transportation"**
Application (RFA# DTOS59-09-RA-TIGER)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to share with you my strong support for an application for a Department of Transportation TIGER grant that would provide long-term regional traffic congestion reduction and enhance safety in Pinellas County, Florida by implementing an innovative intelligent transportation system. A successful application will advance a long-sought goal of operating the County's transportation network in a manner that best maximizes and leverages regional resources.

Specifically, this proposal would ease area congestion on many of the County's worst arterial roadways by continuing implementation of the Smart Tracs Arterial Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). This project would also provide for a higher level of transit and emergency management/response services, complementing ongoing inter-governmental collaborative efforts to improve public service.

In cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Pinellas County will deploy multiple technological components to build Phase II of the Smart Tracs system and integrate intelligent multimodal functionality. The four major components of this project include:

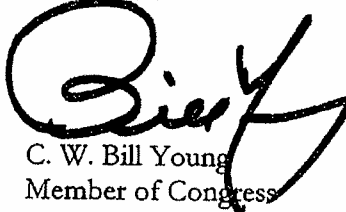
- Implementation of Phase II of the Smart Tracs Arterial ITS system that includes Adaptive Control Software, Advanced Travel Information System, and Incident Management systems;
- Integration of Bus Rapid Transit Technology;
- Integration and Testing of Wireless 4.9 / 5.9 GHz Vehicle to Roadside Communications; and
- Signalized Arterial Level Travel Times.

The initial stage of the Smart Tracs system was installed on US 19 and SR 60 and utilizes Adaptive Traffic Signal Control software, Traveler Information Systems and Incident Management Systems technology to improve travel times, reduce congestion, and improve safety. These two corridors have been completed and have demonstrated extremely positive benefits. Average travel times were reduced by between 8 – 14 percent with reductions in the PM Peak of up to 25 percent. CO₂ emissions showed reductions of 12 percent and injuries for rear-end crashes show a 35-40 percent reduction. For every dollar spent on the system implementation seven dollars were received in benefits by the motoring public, either through saved time or reduced gas consumption.

The results from the initial deployment and additional studies indicate that the same or even greater reductions in travel times, fuel consumption, air pollutants and accidents as the overall traffic management network grows. It is projected that over 1,800 short-term jobs and over 10,000 long-term jobs would be created with the implementation of this proposal. These improvements are a key to movement of goods, inter-county travel, access to the county's main employment centers, and for our major hurricane evacuation routes. Each of these areas is significant towards maintaining sustainable growth, growing our economy, and ensuring a high quality of life level within the county and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration of the Pinellas County application. Undertaking this project will undoubtedly improve travel in our region and create valuable jobs. With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,



C. W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

CWY:hg

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to share with you my strong support for an application by the **City of Treasure Island, Florida**, which I have the privilege to represent, for funding under the ARRA Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program for the replacement of two critically important community bridges at **Capri Isle and Isle of Palms**.

Treasure Island is a small, coastal community with a total population of nearly 7,500. Located in Pinellas County, Treasure Island is part of the Tampa Bay region, one of the nation's fastest growing metro areas, and serves as a destination for national, regional and local tourists.

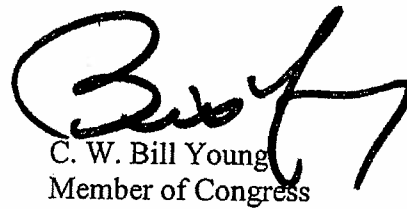
The Florida Department of Transportation maintains a priority index for bridge replacements throughout the State, and the City has the unfortunate privilege of having two bridges in the top fifty for priority replacement. Currently the Isle of Palms Bridge is ranked number 10 and the Capri Isle Bridge is ranked number 41 on the state's priority list.

As a result of declining regional and local economic conditions, TIGER funding will provide the needed remaining funds to ensure the future safety of residents and visitors to the City of Treasure Island whose only means of access to these two island neighborhoods is via single, existing legacy bridges originally constructed in the 1950's.

TIGER funding will have a direct positive impact upon the local economic conditions by creating immediate construction employment, continue the ability for existing businesses served by the Capri Isle and Isle of Palm Bridges to have access to their customers, and to meet the daily transportation needs of the community and visitors.

It is my hope that your department will give every possible consideration to Treasure Island's application for critical bridge replacement funds. With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,



C. W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

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