

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2009

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood  
Secretary  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in strong support of Miami-Dade County's application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant in the amount of \$106 million for the N.W. 25th Street Viaduct (West) Air Cargo and Freight Access Project Phase II. This project provides critical ground access for the nation's top-ranked international air cargo airport - Miami International Airport.

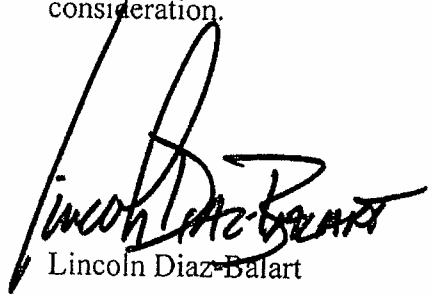
The Viaduct is a project of statewide significance and is a cooperative effort between the Florida Department of Transportation, the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, and the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which has given this project its highest priority. Phase I of the N.W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street at-grade improvements and new viaduct to S.R. 826 project is currently under construction with an expected completion date of July 2011. However, the benefit of the roadway improvements will not be realized until the Phase II project extends the at grade improvements to N.W. 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue and completes the viaduct construction west from SR-826 to N.W. 82 Avenue.

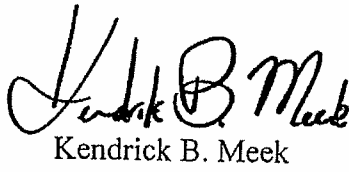
Unfortunately, due to State funding shortfalls, the at-grade improvements and elevated viaduct will remain incomplete, jeopardizing Miami's leading position as a gateway for international cargo. Conservative projections estimate losses of over \$1 billion annually to the local air-freight industry due to excessive ground transportation delays, spoilage of perishable goods, missed trans-shipment windows and late arrival of goods at the final destination. More than 71% of U.S. perishable imports (591,054 tons) arrive through MIA. This includes 86% of U.S. flower imports and 71% of U.S. fruit and vegetable imports.

The Phase II Viaduct project for which TIGER funds are being requested is fully designed and ready to be bid as soon funding is committed. The project will create approximately 5,300 direct, indirect and induced construction-related jobs; 4,703 new on-airport and 23,514 new off-airport air cargo handling jobs through 2030; and capture \$6.4 billion in air cargo-related economic benefits.

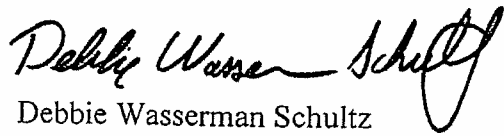
We believe wholeheartedly that this project is deserving of funding. Consistent with all applicable rules and standards, we urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Lincoln Diaz-Balart

  
Kendrick B. Meek

  
Meana Ros-Lehtinen

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz

  
Mario Diaz-Balart

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2009

Secretary Ray LaHood  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

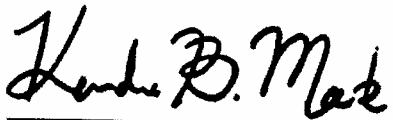
Dear Secretary LaHood,

We are pleased to write you today in support of Miami-Dade Expressway's (MDX) effort to secure federal funding through the Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant program. Their proposed project will involve the realignment, capacity and geometric improvements to Interstate 395 (I-395), an elevated expressway that traverses approximately 1.2 miles within the City of Miami. We respectfully request your careful consideration of the application that MDX has submitted for this important project.

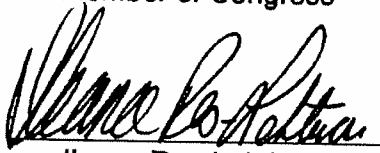
The I-395 corridor plays a significant role in the mobility of area residents because it is the only east-west expressway through central Miami-Dade County. Furthermore, not only is it the most important link between the Port of Miami and the Miami International Airport, but it is also a key element of the Florida Intrastate Highway System and serves as one of the primary evacuation routes for the residents of Miami Beach. The need for immediate improvements is based on the combination of substandard traffic conditions, urban planning objectives and the interaction of other planned facility improvements impacting the proposed project area. Again, this is a project that is of vital importance to local and intrastate commerce and a project that will contribute to the vibrancy of the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County.

Within all applicable rules and regulations, we encourage your consideration of this essential project. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

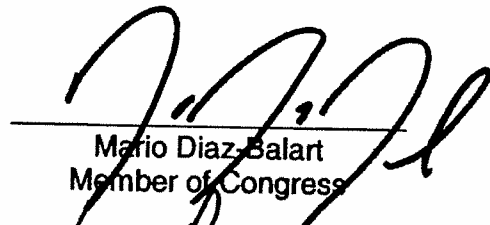
Sincerely,



Kendrick B. Meek  
Member of Congress



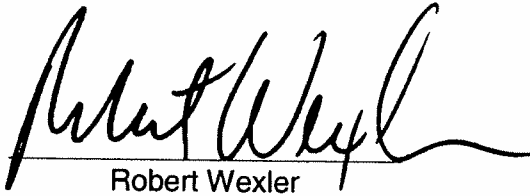
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Lincoln Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Wexler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress