



August 9, 2010

Mr. Ray LaHood  
Secretary, US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Tower 55 At-Grade Rail Improvement Project application for the strategic discretionary grant program being led by USDOT: the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program.

The Tower 55 rail interlocker is one of the busiest and most congested rail intersections in the nation. During peak periods it commonly handles more than 100 trains a day. This project would install new signaling, bridge upgrades, a third north/south mainline, and improved street and pedestrian crossings, and can be completed by February 2012 with ARRA stimulus assistance. The project will deliver an immediate and lasting improvement to the efficiency of rail – the most cost-effective, fuel-efficient, and environmentally-sound land transportation mode for moving the nation's freight.

With its broad and long-term benefits, we believe the Tower 55 At-Grade Rail Improvement Project is a strong candidate for both the HSR Track 1A Grant Program and the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program. It achieves and in many categories exceeds the goals of both programs and would stimulate and sustain both short and long-term economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Thornton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bill Thornton  
President and CEO  
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce