



August 13, 2010

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

**RE: Letter of Support – Texas Department of Transportation TIGER II Funding**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FWHCC), to show its support of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) application for Tiger II grant. This National Infrastructure Investments Discretionary Grant will provide necessary funding for the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project.

Tower 55 is an at-grade intersection of several major railroads where more than 100 freight trains pass through this location daily. An additional 70 commuter/passenger trains per weekday pass by the adjacent Trinity Railway Express. Due to the volume of trains, each train must come to a complete stop prior to crossing resulting in an average wait time of 15 minutes and delays of up to 90 minutes during peak periods. Congestion at Tower 55 is not only a Fort Worth problem but a regional and national issue as well.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP) account for 92% of the daily movement through Tower 55. Both companies are collaboratively working with TXDOT to secure the TIGER II grant, however this is not only a railway project. The Tower 55 Improvement Project will have an impact on safety, delivery of goods and services, remove congestion from railways and highways which will in turn improve air quality.

The Tower 55 Project is rated by TXDOT as the highest priority TIGER II project in Texas. I encourage your consideration in supporting this grant application. With its potential for immediate job creation and longer term economic, energy, environment and safety benefits, we believe this project is well positioned to compete in this TIGER II funding round.

I appreciate the opportunity to express the FWHCC's support for this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosa Navejar', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Rosa Navejar  
President/CEO

m/pc