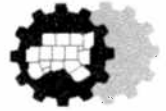


Regional Transportation Council

The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)



August 19, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. On behalf of the RTC, we have reviewed the **Tower 55** project submitted by the Texas Department of Transportation. The RTC would support the United States Department of Transportation's selection for this project to receive TIGER II Grant funding.

As stated in the TIGER II grant application, the DFW region is well positioned to deliver this project within the required timeline, create desperately needed jobs, and further assist in the nation's economic recovery. Project implementation will be conducted by the Union Pacific and BNSF railroads. The project addresses the largest freight bottleneck in the country and has significant national and regional benefits.

This project is consistent with Mobility 2030: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth Area 2009 Amendment. If the project is successful in receiving funds, the Regional Transportation Council will support its inclusion in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

If you have any additional questions regarding this project, please contact Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments, at (817) 695-9241.

Sincerely,

Ron Natinsky
Chair, Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Dallas

AW:cc