



Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition

1509B South University Drive, Suite 276 • Fort Worth, TX 76107 • 817-850-7940 • 817-850-7944 fax • www.trtcmobility.org

August 3, 2010

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

LETTER OF SUPPORT – TOWER 55 MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION FOR TIGER II FUNDING

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter expresses TRTC's support for the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project application for TIGER II funding. The Tower 55 project attacks three significant transportation challenges: insufficient transportation infrastructure for future expected growth, community livability and safety, and environmental conservation. These challenges threaten constituents and economic competitiveness at the local, state and national level, and further delay in addressing them will only add to the challenges and costs at each level. Tower 55, in Fort Worth, Texas, where twelve major freight and passenger rail lines from across North America merge into a single, four-way crossing, is one of the most congested rail intersections in America. The Texas Department of Transportation places Tower 55 at the top of its project priority list.

The Tower 55 project provides a carefully studied approach to achieve the shared long-term objectives of both public and private stakeholders in this investment. New track and signals will provide for a more efficient rail intersection, avoiding rerouting and idling, both of which bear significant economic and environmental costs. Closed grade crossings and improved bridges and underpasses will promote safer and more efficient circulation for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians in an Economically Distressed Area where lost productivity due to rail-related delay is especially burdensome. Improved neighborhood access for emergency vehicles and decreased delay for passenger rail add to the livability benefits. The project provides for 16 or more years of capacity for expected rail tonnage growth, avoiding over \$800 million in estimated transportation and inventory costs and over \$100 million in estimated environmental and productivity costs.

We urge your favorable consideration of the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project application for TIGER II funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Suhm", is written over a white background.

Vic Suhm
Executive Director

AECOM, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, City of Arlington, City of Azle, City of Bedford, City of Benbrook, City of Blue Mound, Blue Star Investments (Dallas Cowboys), Brown & Gay Engineers, City of Burleson, BNSF, Cantey Hanger, City of Cleburne, City of Colleyville, City of Crowley, Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, City of Decatur, City of Denton, Denton County, Denton County Transportation Authority, Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., City of Euless, Town of Flower Mound, City of Forest Hill, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, City of Fort Worth, Freese & Nichols, Graham Associates, City of Grand Prairie, City of Grapevine, Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors, Half Associates, City of Haltom City, City of Haslet, Hicks Holdings (Texas Rangers), Hillwood Properties, City of Hudson Oaks, Huitt Zollars, HEB Chamber of Commerce, City of Hurst, Jacobs Engineering, Johnson County, City of Joshua, City of Keller, City of Kennedale, Kimley Horn, Thomas Krampitz Law, City of Lake Worth, City of Mansfield, Metroport Cities Partnership, National Association of Railroad Passengers, Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, City of North Richland Hills, Northeast Leadership Forum, Northwest Communities Partnership, Pacheco Koch Engineers, City of Rhome, City of Richland Hills, City of River Oaks, City of Saginaw, City of Southlake, Tarrant County, Tarrant County College, Taylor Olson Adkins Sralla & Elam L.L.P., Teague Nall and Perkins, The T, Town of Trophy Club, URS Corporation, City of Watauga, City of Weatherford, Town of Westlake, City of Westover Hills, City of Westworth Village, City of White Settlement, Wise County