

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

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

August 19, 2010

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write to express my support for the application for TIGER II discretionary funds to support the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project in Texas.

Tower 55 is a critically important freight and passenger rail gateway located along a key transportation trade corridor connecting the United States, Mexico and Canada. It has also become one of the most congested rail chokepoints in the nation's supply chain. Eleven major freight and passenger rail lines from across the country converge at Tower 55 into a single, four way at-grade intersection. More than 100 passenger and freight trains must travel through the intersection on peak days, with over 200 million tons of freight moving between North American markets each year.

The Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project will simultaneously address a number of key challenges for the local community, state and surrounding region. It will greatly enhance rail and motorist transportation flows through and around the intersection, improvements which will be felt up and down the affected trade corridors; address community safety and livability concerns; and promote national goals of energy savings and environmental conservation.

With its potential for immediate job creation and longer term economic, energy, environmental and safety benefits, I urge your due consideration of this project for TIGER II funding. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


CHET EDWARDS
Member of Congress

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