

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

August 17, 2010

Mr. Dana Gresham
Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Assistant Secretary Gresham:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

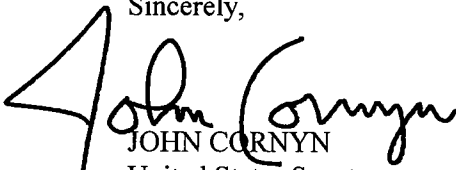
As you and your staff review the proposal, I trust you will give full consideration to the many strengths of this application. As you know, TxDOT is requesting TIGER II funding to support the Tower 55 Multimodal Improvement Project (T55MIP). Tower 55 is a critically important freight and passenger rail gateway located along a key transportation and trade corridor connecting Canada, Mexico and the United States. 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 travel through the intersection on peak days, with over 200 million tons of freight moving through North American markets each year.

TXDOT, in partnership with BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad, Amtrak, the City of Fort Worth, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and the Fort Worth Transit Authority are working to complete the T55MIP. The project will address a number of challenges to enhance rail and motorist transportation flows through the Tower 55 intersection and surrounding corridors. TXDOT has made Tower 55 the highest priority infrastructure funding project in the state due to the positive impact it will have on job creation, reducing traffic and freight congestion and improving the flow of goods and commerce. As a result, I ask that you give this application every due consideration.

I would appreciate your efforts to ensure that I am kept informed as to the progress of this application. Please contact Andrew Blaylock, my Grants Coordinator, with any developments regarding this proposal as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,


JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JC:ab