



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 16, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's (JTA) for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant (TIGER) for Phase I development of the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center (JRTC).

This innovative multi-modal facility will maximize the integration and coordination for all public transportation modes now in operation and those planned to serve the northeast Florida area. This project has proposed transformative, long-term improvements that will fulfill many regionally-based social, economic and transportation demands. Phase I development of the JRTC project includes integrating local (JTA) and intercity bus (Greyhound), regional Bus Rapid Transit, and Skyway modes (automated guideway) while supporting office areas, public parking as well as streetscape and public plaza improvements..

This project was planned with the full intent to enhance services while meeting the growing transportation demands of northeast Florida. In order to accomplish this goal, JTA worked in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the City of Jacksonville, local planning organizations, Greyhound, Amtrak, Florida Highway Patrol and others in developing the JRTC. The project in its current form compliments the many priorities set forth by these partnerships.

To address the economic development needs of the region, the JRTC site has been located within the City of Jacksonville's "Enterprise/Empowerment Zone," a state and federally designated area targeted for economic revitalization. The JRTC supports the Enterprise/Empowerment program goals through the expansion of new business development and commerce opportunities for the local community, providing multimodal accessibility and dedicated space for mixed-use development.

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This project is a regional priority and will allow JTA to enhance their services in order to adequately provide efficient transit mobility to the people of northeast Florida. TIGER funding represents a critical piece in completing these significant and lasting improvements to our local, regional and national transportation network. Thank you for your consideration.

This project is a regional priority and will allow JTA to enhance their services in order to adequately provide efficient transit mobility to the people of northeast Florida. I would greatly appreciate your consideration of the merits of this important Florida transportation project for my congressional district and all of northeast Florida.

Sincerely,



ANDER CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

AC:MK



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Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA) for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant (TIGER) for the North International Airport Boulevard (NIAB) project.

The Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) is a vital component of the nation's transportation system, serving as the primary commercial airport for the City of Jacksonville, all of northeast Florida, and southeast Georgia. Eleven airlines currently provide service between JIA and more than 30 markets. In 2008, JIA served over 3 million enplaned passengers and handled more than 80 million pounds of enplaned freight.

The proposed 3.5 mile mainline road will complete the linkage for truck traffic southbound on Interstate 95, providing a parallel alternative access route to JIA while enabling truck traffic to enter the air cargo terminal area separate from the primary passenger route. The additional road will reduce traffic delays, increase the airport's capacity to accommodate growth projections and assure the safety of the traveling public by reducing the interface of truck and passenger traffic.

While 421 construction jobs will be created in the short term during construction, the new road will promote the creation of an estimated 68,000 jobs over a 20 year build-out by opening up surrounding areas for industrial and commercial development.

The planning for this access road has been underway for many years and much progress has been made with a combination of federal, state and local funds. The project is already 50 percent through the design process and right-of-way acquisition is currently underway. Construction could begin within nine months of the receipt of TIGER funds once right-of-way acquisition is complete. The project is endorsed by both the State of Florida and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization.


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This project is a regional priority and will allow JIA to enhance their services in order to adequately provide efficient transit mobility to the people of northeast Florida. I would greatly appreciate your consideration of the merits of this important Florida transportation project for my congressional district and all of northeast Florida.

Sincerely,



ANDER CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

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