

JOHN R. MARKS, III, MAYOR



August 31, 2009

Raymond H. LaHood, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Attention: TIGER Discretionary Grant Review Team

Dear Secretary LaHood:

As Mayor of the City of Tallahassee, I respectfully request your support of the Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency's Application for TIGER Discretionary Grant funding for construction of an important roadway segment in our area. This proposed segment of Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest is a direct link from Interstate 10 to the community's southwest side which includes the City-owned Tallahassee Regional Airport and several research and business parks as described in the Application. The City has several development-ready parcels at the Airport, and the proposed roadway improvement will assist in job and economic growth within the County and Region.

The Blueprint Agency and its partners have already invested over \$50 million in the project's planning, design, and right-of-way acquisition. The Agency had intended on funding construction of the entire 2.9-mile project primarily from local sales tax receipts, however, the downturn in the economy has reduced sales tax receipts so that only the northern 1.2-mile segment of the project can be constructed. TIGER funding for this project will allow construction to proceed through the SR 20 intersection, relieving congestion, providing enhanced access to the Airport for passenger and freight movements, and creating nearly 150 direct construction jobs, and over 250 additional supplier and spinoff jobs within the local economy.

Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest is the top priority for the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, and a critical link in our community's transportation network.

Thank you for your consideration of the area's funding request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Marks III".

John Marks
Mayor