



September 2, 2009

Mr. 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:

Last year, the Florida State University completed an update of its Campus Master Plan which established a series of long range planning goals that include provisions for future academic, research and support facilities, student housing, and other university facilities. Included in this update was a long range plan for its Southwest Campus which is also located in Tallahassee. During this planning process, we studied a number of conditions which will allow us to increase the utilization of this campus as well as those factors which serve as obstacles to this utilization. We believe that one of those restrictive factors is the limited access that currently exists for various modes that serve this campus.

For a number of years, Florida State has been an active participant in various community and local government initiatives to improve our campuses and areas that surround them. More recently, this participation has included our involvement in the Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency's study of Capital Circle. Our involvement is predicated on the simple fact that Capital Circle serves as a major route to our Southwest Campus and that any plans to improve the roadway will likely impact our development plans. To date, we have been generally pleased with the results of the Intergovernmental Agency's study and the evolving designs for possible modifications to Capital Circle. We believe that, when fully implemented, improvements to Capital Circle will provide increased access to our Southwest Campus and facilitate significant expansions of our research and academic programs that are housed there. Likewise, other University programs, including those involving student facilities such as housing and recreation, will be positively affected.

It is for this reason that Florida State University is adding its support to the Intergovernmental Agency's Application for \$15 million in TIGER discretionary funding for the construction of a portion of Capital Circle in the vicinity of State Road 20 in Tallahassee. We agree with the Agency's assessment that this particular roadway segment is an important connection that serves not only Florida State's Southwest Campus, but also the Tallahassee Regional Airport and Interstate 10. We further endorse the idea that this roadway improvement will foster University development, provide new economic opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for those persons that live, work, and study in the area.

**Mr. Raymond H. LaHood, Secretary  
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Page two**

Thank you for considering the Agency's request. We look forward to our continuing working relationship with the Agency, local governments, the citizens of Tallahassee, and your Department on the realization of this important community improvement.

Sincerely,



T.K. Wetherell  
President

TKW/mb

cc: Chairman Jim Smith, FSU Board of Trustees  
Provost Larry Abele  
Senior Vice President John Carnaghi