



# INNOVATION PARK

A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

August 28, 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:**

**I would like to express my support for the proposed TIGER Grant to improve Capital Circle in Tallahassee, Florida. Capital Circle is a main access road to our park and improvements to the road will assist us in attracting employers and employees.**

**Innovation Park is Tallahassee's research and development park. The park is governed by the Leon County Research and Development Authority which was established under Florida Statute and is chartered under the county government as an economic development project. The mission of the park is create jobs, diversify the economy and to enhance the research at the universities. Our goals include attracting technology related industries and laboratories to work in affiliation with Florida A & M and Florida State Universities, and to foster start up firms and university spin off companies.**

**The Authority controls 238 acres in the southwest sector of Tallahassee. Currently we have 17 facilities constructed, with another facility in the planning stage. Together the buildings total approximately one million square feet of laboratories, research, manufacturing and related office space creating direct employment for 2000 citizens.**

**Two of the larger private industries in the park are Elbit Systems of America, Inc. and Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, Inc. Both of these are foreign owned firms that were recruited to this area in partnership with the city government. They have created 500 high paying technology R & D and manufacturing jobs for our community.**

**The Park Authority has also established an incubator program in conjunction with the FAMU Small Business Development Center. The incubator provides facilities, counseling and business services for small and start up businesses. These activities draw many visitors to the park in addition to those employed here.**



**The Authority has room for expansion. One factor that has always been an issue in the development of the park and the surrounding area is the access roads to the park. The majority of the employees live in the northern section of the city and they travel Capital Circle to reach the park. This road and its feeder roads have become congested, making the park less desirable for the location of a business.**

**We strongly urge you to favorably consider awarding the TIGER Grant to Tallahassee to allow us to grow and fulfill our economic development mandate. Thank you for your consideration. If you would like further information, please feel free to contact me.**

**Sincerely,**

**Linda Nichol森  
Executive Director  
Innovation Park**