



**BUFFALO BAYOU  
PARTNERSHIP**

October 17, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-001

Subject: Support for the City of Houston's TIGER III Application

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Anne Olson

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Houston's application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) grant. I am also happy to commit \$1 million of privately raised funds that the Buffalo Bayou Partnership has reserved specifically for Project #4 of the City's TIGER III application, if the application is awarded.

Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the non-profit organization charged with revitalizing and transforming Buffalo Bayou, Houston's most significant natural resource and historic waterway. Buffalo Bayou plays an integral role in Houston's alternative transportation system. More than 10 miles of bikeways have been completed along the bayou and approximately four additional miles are slated for construction by 2014. This project provides a critical missing link as it offers connectivity to the bikeways along White Oak and Brays, to mass transit, and to the city's expanding light rail system.

Once completed, the Smith Street to Milam Street trail will connect to a recently completed \$1.3 million trail (TEA-21 funds) redevelopment at Allen's Landing, Houston's birthplace. At this site, an intermodal center, consisting of bike and boat rentals, will soon be developed with \$500,000 in federal appropriation funds. This facility, part of an overall \$8 million development project, is located directly on downtown Houston's Main Street light rail line and connects to the city's regional bus network.

This project will provide alternative transportation options to downtown's 140,000 workers, the densest employment center in Houston, University of Houston-Downtown's 13,000 students, and the 9,000 citizens summoned by Harris County Courts System each week. The trail segment's construction is extremely challenging due to its location under several city streets, bridges and through public infrastructure. The trail will connect to many significant downtown destinations such as the Theater District and Mark Square Historic District, and extend all the way to Houston's East End, a predominately low-income Hispanic community.

Thank you for considering the City of Houston's TIGER III application. We look forward to partnering with the City to complete Project #4 of the application.

Sincerely,

Anne Olson  
Buffalo Bayou Partnership



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October 11, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-001

Subject: Commitment of Funds for the City of Houston's TIGER III Application

Dear Secretary LaHood,

The Board of Directors for TIRZ #3 (the "Board") commits \$300,000 of currently available funds as a local match if the City of Houston is awarded the 2011 Department of Transportation's National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER III). The local match commitment will be divided between Projects #3 and #4, with \$150,000 designated for each project.

The six proposed projects in the City's TIGER III application make significant improvements in the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that will greatly improve the quality of life in Houston. These projects will alleviate deteriorated street and site conditions and provide innovative transportation solutions. Both of these developments are critical to the long term economic health of the entire City. The Board is especially interested in the Projects #3 and #4 because these two projects fall within the boundaries of the TIRZ, and we believe the completion of the projects will greatly benefit our community.

For these reasons and as demonstrated by this financial commitment, the Board wholeheartedly supports the City's TIGER III proposal and hopes that it will receive your favorable review.

Very truly yours,

Xavier Pena  
Chairman  
Downtown Redevelopment Authority  
TIRZ No. 3