



**GREATER
EAST END
DISTRICT**

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Diane Schenke
Resident

October 27, 2011

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR TIGER 3 GRANT APPLICATION

Dear Mr. LaHood;

The Greater East End Management District (GEEMD) is writing to express its complete support for the TIGER III application submitted by the City of Houston. The Board of the GEEMD authorized expenditures from District reserve funds to create a pedestrian friendly environment along the METRO East End Rail Line now under construction at the Board meeting on August 19, 2010. Based on this action, the GEEMD has committed \$1.85 million in match to this grant. These expenditures have occurred within a Letter of No Prejudice area as defined by a letter issued by the Federal Transit Administration to the District on November 9, 2010.

Project #5 is within the Greater End District and creates crucial pedestrian and bicyclist connections between the East End Line Rail Line, bus stops, and residential neighborhoods. This project demonstrates that the City and its many partners understand that public transit planning must ensure safe routes between homes, bus and Light Rail stations and final destinations. The improvements in Project #5 will enhance commuter connectivity and allow greater accessibility to the many quality jobs in close proximity to the planned improvements.

The City's visionary investment in public transit connections and active commuting (either cycling or walking) provides an opportunity to transform a city highly dependent on the automobile into a national leader in alternative transportation. The GEEMD Board hopes you will join us in this transformational investment.

Sincerely,

L. Diane Schenke
President



September 30, 2011

Roksan Okan-Vick, FAIA, Executive Director
Houston Parks Board, Inc.
300 North Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024

RE: TIGER III Grant Application

Dear Ms. Okan-Vick,

Pursuant to our conversations regarding the Houston Parks Board grant application for TIGER III funding, I take this opportunity to formalize the participation of the Houston Downtown Management District (HDMD) as a local co-sponsor for matching funds.

HDMD is able to provide \$300,000 towards implementation of pedestrian improvements and bike trail connections per our recently completed *Downtown / EaDo Livable Centers Study*. The pertinent recommendations from the HDMD co-sponsored study include the following sidewalk and roadway improvements:

1. Rusk Street from Avenida de las Americas to Chartres Street.
2. Polk Street from Avenida de las Americas to Chartres Street.
3. These two streets will address bike trail connections and are within HDMD boundaries. The general scope of work involves dedicated bike lane striping, signage & lighting. We are able to fund both design and capital improvements.
4. Capitol and Texas Streets to the north will be combined with the Rusk and Polk Street crossings under US-59 / across Chartres Street, as part of a larger project to improve pedestrian connections between downtown and east downtown.

Please do not hesitate to call if I may offer additional assistance with the grant application.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lonnie Hoogeboom".

Lonnie Hoogeboom, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
Director of Planning & Design

October 5, 2011

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


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

The Board of Directors for TIRZ 15 (the "Board") commits itself to utilize currently available funds totaling \$2,250,000 for pedestrian improvements for the blocks identified in Attachment A to this letter if the City of Houston is awarded the 2011 Department of Transportation's National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER III). The proposed pedestrian improvements will be located in close proximity to the new Dynamo soccer stadium that will be a state-of-the-art, open-air stadium designed to host Dynamo matches as well as additional sporting and concert events. When it opens in 2012, the 22,000-seat stadium will be the first soccer-specific stadium in Major League Soccer located in a city's downtown district.

The development of these pedestrian corridors located next to a new light rail station, along with the larger TIGER III proposal submitted by the City of Houston, will provide important links from residential homes to public transit, retail, entertainment and employment centers located throughout Houston's urban core bounded by Loop 610. These improvements will greatly benefit pedestrians, cyclists and public transit users connecting to the neighborhoods located within TIRZ 15's boundaries.

As demonstrated by our significant financial commitment, the Board wholeheartedly supports this proposal and hopes that it will receive your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,



Gordon Quan
Chair
Board of Directors
T.I.R.Z. 15