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October 28, 2011

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Roksan Okan-Vick, FAIA
Executive Director

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

Subject: Support for Houston's TIGER III Application

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to add my support to the City of Houston's application for the 2011 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) Program. I am also confirming the Houston Parks Board's commitment to contribute \$1,272,000 of in-kind land donation and \$927,150 in cash for Projects #1, #2, #3 and #6 of the application, if the grant is awarded.

The Houston Parks Board is a non-profit organization that partners with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department to acquire and improve parkland in Houston. Since its inception, the Parks Board has added almost 13,000 acres of strategically located parkland to the City's inventory and made over \$70 million in capital improvements.

In 1912, the author of Houston's first master plan observed that "the backbone of a park system for Houston will naturally be its bayous" which "furnish opportunities for parks of unusual value within a comparative short distance of most of the residential areas." With its many partners, the Parks Board has dedicated itself to fulfilling this century-old vision of linear parks and shared use paths along the more than 300 miles of bayous throughout the Houston region.

Projects #2, #3, #4 and #6 of the application complete the last important gaps in the system of shared use paths along the bayous within Houston's urban core. Project #1 completes the White Oak Bayou path to the Northwest corner of the City. By funding this application, the Department of Transportation will provide needed momentum to the regional effort to complete the 300 miles of bayou trails. Building on this network of trails funded by this application, the Parks Board has committed itself to working with local cities, the county, the State of Texas and other local governments to complete the bayou greenway vision. As demonstrated in this letter, the Parks Board has also committed to raising private funds from families, foundations and corporations.

We urge you to join us in our effort to remake the City of Houston around our bayous by building shared use paths that increase safe transportation options and dramatically improve livability within our City.

Sincerely,

Roksan Okan-Vick
Executive Director

Houston Parks Board
300 North Post Oak Lane
Houston, Texas 77024
713.942.8500
Fax 713.942.7664



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

DR. CARL CARLUCCI

Executive Vice Chancellor, Administration and Finance
UH System
Executive Vice President, Administration and Finance
University of Houston

October 28, 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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the grant application submitted by the City of Houston for the 2011 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) Program. If the City is awarded this grant, the University of Houston will provide property valued at \$207,000 plus \$468,275 to complete Project #6 of this application. The University of Houston, located two miles Southeast of Downtown Houston, is home to nearly 39,000 students, many of whom commute from across the Houston area to attend school.

Our university is proud to collaborate with the City, Harris County Flood Control District, and the Houston Parks Board to solve the transportation challenge of transporting students and staff between our main campus and the new Energy Research campus, located just .6 miles away along Buffalo Bayou, but which currently requires a 3-mile trip via heavily trafficked roads or highways.

By building a hike and bike trail (Project #6), this segment provides students with the options of walking or cycling between campuses—each of these options providing a safer, more environmentally friendly option than the current route of driving an automobile between the two campuses. Additionally, the university proposes to use electric carts along the trail to provide ease of travel for staff, faculty and researchers between both campuses. The collaboration on this project between a public university, a flood control entity and a nonprofit focused on improving our City's park system is a perfect example of non-transportation entities pursuing the common objective of innovative transportation solutions that improves livability for our students.

Additionally, we believe that the remaining projects in this application, when combined with provisions for bicycle parking around campus, will encourage more of our students to cycle to school, providing relief for our city's heavily congested roads and reducing the need for additional parking garages.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Carl Carlucci



9900 Northwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77092
713-684-4000
www.hcfcd.org

October 19, 2011

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

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to support the Bike/Ped Connections to Transit initiative submitted by the City of Houston for the Department of Transportation's 2011 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) program.

The Harris County Flood Control District (District) is pleased to support Projects #1, #2, #3, and #6 of this TIGER III application by providing a right-of-way for portions of the shared use path that will be built by these projects. By collaborating with the City of Houston, the City of Houston TIRZ #3, the City of Houston TIRZ #5, the City of Houston TIRZ #21, the Houston Parks Board, the University of Houston and the University of Houston-Downtown, the District is able to continue to support its mission statement of providing flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Talbott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael D. Talbott, P.E.
Director

MDT:cg

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