

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

October 25, 2011

Mr. Dana Gresham
Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Assistant Secretary Gresham:

I am writing to express my support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery III (TIGER) Grant application submitted to the Department of Transportation by the City of San Marcos.

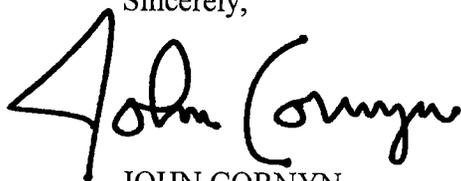
As you and your staff review the proposal, I trust you will give full consideration to the many strengths of this application. As you know, the City is seeking TIGER funding for the Loop 82/Aquarena Springs Drive Union Pacific Railroad Overpass (the Overpass) project. I have been informed that the area averages 32,000 vehicles a day and 47 trains pass through the City every 24 hours. The heavy train and vehicle traffic increases the risk for traffic congestion and delays and the potential for train and automobile collisions at the existing at-grade crossing.

As a result, the City has developed a TIGER proposal that includes the design and construction of a four lane undivided road with a rail grade separation of Loop 82 and the Overpass. This initiative will support efforts to enhance multi-modal access and rail and roadway safety, reduce traffic congestion and improve the flow of goods and commerce.

I would appreciate your efforts to ensure that I am kept informed as to the progress of this application. Please contact Andrew Blaylock, my Grants Coordinator, with any developments regarding the disposition of this proposal as soon as they are available.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cornyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator

JC:ab

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304

October 21, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

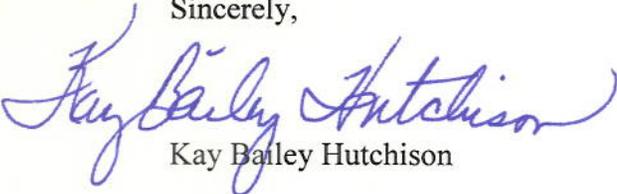
Dear Secretary LaHood:

The City of San Marcos has notified me that it has submitted an application for a grant under the TIGER III program to fund the Loop 82/Aquarena Springs Drive Union Pacific Railroad Overpass (UPRR) project. I am pleased to support the application.

I am requesting the Department of Transportation to carefully consider the merits of this grant proposal and ensure it receives a fair and thorough review during the evaluation process. The City informs me that the project will benefit the community by enhancing multi-modal access, strengthening local and regional economies, and expanding transportation choices for the community. When completed, the Loop 82/UPRR Project will provide improved safety and mobility into the center of San Marcos, it will also incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities that provide access to the Texas State University.

Should you have any questions regarding the grant application, I hope you will not hesitate to contact Lucas Szabo in my office for additional information.

Sincerely,



Kay Bailey Hutchison

KBH/ls



DENISE M. TRAUTH
PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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October 26, 2011

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Texas State University-San Marcos appreciates this opportunity to express our support for the City of San Marcos' proposed TIGER Grant application for the Loop 82 (Aquarena Springs Drive) Union Pacific Railroad Overpass Project. The project is in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). Construction of this project will significantly improve safety, regional mobility, and access to Texas State on the major entryway to the university. Because this is a major gateway to the university, it is also important that the overpass be aesthetically pleasing. The City is to be commended for recognizing and addressing urgent transportation needs in our community.

The Loop 82 project has been designated as the top Railroad Safety Project in Texas for 2013. The City has vigorously sought resources for this project on the local, state, and federal levels because of its importance to the region. Accelerating completion of this project will provide major benefits to the community in safety, reduced traffic congestion, and improved air quality.

Texas State University looks forward to working with the City of San Marcos and TXDOT on this important project.

Please feel free to contact me if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise M. Trauth".

Denise Trauth
President

DMT:sr

The rising STAR of Texas™

Texas State University-San Marcos, founded in 1899, is a member of The Texas State University System.

LLOYD DOGGETT
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS



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October 12, 2011

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The Honorable Ray LaHood
US Dept of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support for the City of San Marcos' application for the 2011 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program for the Loop 82/Aquarena Springs Drive Union Pacific Railroad Overpass project (Loop 82/UPRR Project).

Since 2009, the TIGER Discretionary Grant program has sought to promote economic recovery by investing in transportation infrastructure projects that provide long-term economic benefits. The Loop 82/UPRR Project, which will consist of the design and construction of a four-lane undivided roadway with a railroad grade separation at the intersection of Loop 82 and UPRR, aligns with this primary objective. This project will enhance multi-modal access, strengthen local and regional economies, and expand transportation choices for the community.

Located in Hays County in Central Texas between Austin and San Antonio, San Marcos continues to face the stress of a rapidly growing population. As the major entry way into the city and Texas State University, Loop 82 (Aquarena Springs Drive) averages over 32,000 vehicles per day. UPRR bisects the city with an average of 47 trains traveling through San Marcos every 24 hours. Not surprisingly, the existing at-grade crossing results in an increased risk for automobile/railroad conflicts and significant trip delay. When completed, the Loop 82/UPRR Project will not only provide improved safety and mobility into the center of San Marcos, but it will also incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities to provide access to the Texas State University.

In this latest segment of TIGER grants, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is specifically seeking projects that: improve the condition of existing facilities; contribute to the country's economic competitiveness; foster livable communities; and improve energy efficiency and improve safety. In addition to meeting each of these criteria, the Loop 82 Project/UPRR will also create jobs and economic activity at a most important time.

As you consider proposals related to this initiative, I respectfully ask that you give strong, full and fair consideration to San Marcos' proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,


Lloyd Doggett