



October 10, 2011

Secretary Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Discretionary Grant Application Letter of Support for Lee Road Extension

Dear Secretary LaHood:

By this letter, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) offers its full support to Douglas County on its application to receive TIGER Discretionary Grant funding for the Lee Road extension project.

The implementation of this project results in an extension of Lee road from its existing southern terminus at Georgia State Route 92 to Pope Road as a four lane boulevard with a raised median.

The Lee Road extension project satisfies the following Primary Selection Criteria outlined within the TIGER Discretionary Grant program:

- *Economic Competitiveness:* This project will provide critical accessibility to vacant parcels that can be rapidly developed to serve market needs and generate jobs in one of Georgia's officially designated Economically Depressed Areas (EDA). Over time, this node will become a mature anchor to an economically diverse State Route 92 corridor that includes regional commercial, service and industrial uses.
- *Livability:* The Lee Road Extension completes a development node on State Route 92 that allows Douglas County to implement its vision of a compact, mixed-use center surrounded by 'lifestyle' neighborhoods that include a variety of housing choices, all within a human-scaled design context.

This project originated from an ARC Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study. The LCI program awards planning grants on a competitive basis to local governments and nonprofit organizations to prepare plans help link transportation improvements with community development and regional policies in order to create more sustainable communities. The LCI program has been recognized nationally by the American Planning Association and the Congress for New Urbanism. The LCI program aligns closely with the goals and ideals of the HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

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Douglas County proposes an aggressive design/build method of delivery which should allow for this project to be amended into the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in timely fashion.

Please contact me should there be any additional questions about ARC's support of the Lee Road Extension project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emerson Bryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Emerson Bryan
Interim Director, Atlanta Regional Commission
ebryan@atlantaregional.com

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c: Tom Worthan, Chairman, Douglas County Board of Commissioners