



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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October 24, 2011

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

Dear Mr. LaHood:

Re: Support for the Century Boulevard Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Inglewood's Tiger III grant application to secure funding for the development of the Century Boulevard Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project. Century Boulevard is a major arterial in Los Angeles County that traverses through both the Cities of Los Angeles and Inglewood. This project seeks to improve the 100-foot-wide 3 mile right of way of the Boulevard in Inglewood from Van Ness Avenue on the east to La Cienega on the west.

Improvements to Century Boulevard will stimulate the local economy and create jobs. Job creation and near-term economic activity remain a top priority of the Obama Administration; therefore, the Department of Transportation is prioritizing the funding of transportation projects that are expected to quickly create and preserve jobs and activity that benefit economically distressed areas. Since the development of Village at Century (A 16-acre commercial retail center) in 2003, Century Boulevard has become a hot bed for large-scale development opportunities in Los Angeles County. Century Blvd will be the primary street that residents, shoppers and visitors will use to access the Hollywood Park Tomorrow Project, a 236-acre, mix-use development. The development is scheduled to break ground next year. This two billion dollar development project will create 19,000 construction and permanent jobs. The Century Boulevard Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project is also the primary street for residents and visitors to access Madison Square Garden's proposed renovation of the Great Western Forum into a state-of-the art entertainment venue. If approved by the City, this reconstruction project will generate 328 full-time construction jobs and 260 permanent jobs in the city. The Century Boulevard reconstruction project provides a unique opportunity to showcase regional infrastructure project that illustrates the nexus between transportation projects and economic competitiveness.

The Century Boulevard Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project will improve the condition of the existing transportation facilities and systems, which will minimize its life cycle cost. Additionally, the project makes this major arterial more sustainable by promoting non-motorized transportation activities by creating bicycle lanes and pedestrian linkages, promoting the use of public transit by creating exclusive bus lanes, and increasing the efficiency of a major regional transportation corridor through effective signal synchronization.

As the Deputy Executive Director, maximizing mobility opportunities and promoting the use of transit and non-motorized transportation activities throughout the South Bay is of high importance. With the award of TIGER funds for this project, we will be closer to meeting these objectives.

Sincerely,

Kim Fuentes, Deputy Executive Director
South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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