



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 Inglewood Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Transit 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 improvements to the Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Transit (LRT) Corridor in Inglewood. The Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail Transit Corridor is a 8.5 mile light rail line that will extend from the intersection of Exposition and Crenshaw Boulevards through the City of Inglewood to the Metro Green Line's Aviation/LAX Station. The City of Inglewood has two stations along the proposed rail system: Florence/West and Florence/La Brea Stations.

The Florence/La Brea Station will be located in the heart of Inglewood's Downtown; therefore, TIGER funds will be used to improve existing and future transportation facilities and systems in and around the station area. These improvements will make the project more sustainable by promoting non-motorized transportation activities through development of a bike station, pedestrian linkages, and a bus depot; additionally, they will create a regional destination that will bring more people Downtown and catalyze both commercial and retail development opportunities.

A cut and cover crossing at the intersection of Centinela and Florence will enhance the overall safety of the transit corridor. One of the design alternatives evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is a Cut and Cover Crossing at Centinela/Florence (Design Option 3). This option involves a cut and cover crossing instead of an at-grade crossing at Centinela Avenue. A LRT under crossing at Centinela Avenue would replace the at-grade LRT alternative proposed under the Base LRT Alternative and would extend approximately 2,000 feet within the Harbor Subdivision. The under crossing would consist. At this time, the only way that this option can be included in the project definition is if funding is identified for the improvement; therefore, the City is requesting TIGER funds for this purpose.

As the Executive Director of the Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce representing the Inglewood/Airport area, it has been one of my priorities to improve safety opportunities along the Crenshaw/LAX transportation corridor and to promote the use of transit and non-motorized transportation activities within this vital corridor and the local and adjacent regions. The City of Inglewood is requesting \$25 million for this critically important regional transportation project. I would appreciate your support of this application.

Sharron & Hows

Shannon R. Howe, E.V.P.

Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

310/677-1121

inglewoodchamber@sbcglobal.net