



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Greg Evers

District One

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October 9, 2009

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

Secretary LaHood,

It is a tremendous privilege to submit this letter of support for Okaloosa County in its effort to obtain a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant for the development and expansion of Florida State Road 85.

Eglin Air Force Base serves as the largest Department of Defense installation and supports major military operations throughout the world. It is also proud to be the first home to the Joint Strike Fighter. This transportation project will provide many important benefits to the forces at Duke Field and the new 7th Special Forces Group in their operations as our area prepares for the addition of 2,200 soldiers and 4,000 family members.

The expected military expansion will bring a welcomed boom to the local economy and will incur a subsequent need for an expansion in infrastructure. Unfortunately, the current transportation system hinders mobility and has excessive delays that compromise military operations and economic viability. These failures highlight the inadequacy of the current system and the need for added infrastructure.

While there will be significant growth to the area, it is imperative that military operations are not compromised but accommodated and that economic viability is nurtured. The Multimodal Capacity Improvements along Florida State Road 85 Corridor at Eglin Air Force Base will meet these challenging needs and position itself to continue a high level of excellence.

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Once again, thank you for your consideration and time on this important project which would provide a great service for our defense-based community and the entire surrounding area.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Evers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "E".

Greg Evers
State Representative
District 1