



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, Southwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

RE: TIGER Grant

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Okaloosa County's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to ensure economic viability of the military support system that requires an adequate transportation system. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Eglin U.S. Air Force Base is located in the northwest Florida Panhandle. Eglin is a center of Armament Research and Development and is a primary installation of Air Force weapons. It is also home to Special Operations Commands of both the Air Force and Army. The present capacity of the SR 85 corridor is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Eglin mission or the needs of the state's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) system. If funded, the development of SR 85 Corridor will not only enhance the Northwest Florida defense contracting community but will also maintain residential and business development.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Nelson".

BN/ut

CC: Ms. Lynn Bannister, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson