



Florida House of Representatives
Representative Ray Sansom
District 4

September 14, 2009

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

Re: Support for Okaloosa County, Florida TIGER Grant

Dear Secretary LaHood:

It is my pleasure to express my support for the Okaloosa County, Florida application to the U. S. Department of Transportation for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant. The elements of this proposed project will provide necessary improvements in the Okaloosa County transportation system, ensuring continued support for the mission of Eglin Air Force base as well as for the economic viability of the Northwest Florida Region.

Eglin Air Force Base is the largest Department of Defense installation with one of the most diverse mission complexes in the military. It is home to the Air Armament Center, Air Force Special Operations Command, six wings and 42 tenant organizations. Eglin supports major military operations throughout the world; it also serves and supports a military population of more than 64,000, including active duty members and dependents and retirees.

As proposed, the Multimodal Capacity Improvements along Florida State Road 85 Corridor at Eglin Air Force Base project will provide the necessary transportation support for the military mission at Eglin and for other aerospace and defense technologies housed

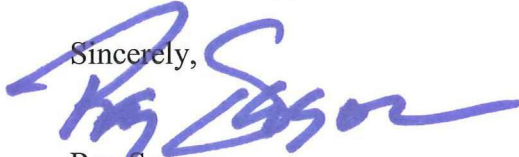
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in Okaloosa County. The proposal represents the collaborative efforts of our military partners with local, state and federal governmental entities. Development of the proposal, including determination of environmental impact, is the result of extensive briefings and mutual planning sessions attended by representatives of the Florida House and Senate delegations, the Florida Congressional delegation, Florida Secretary of Transportation Kopelousos, Eglin Air Force Base leadership and officials from county and city governments in Okaloosa County. The proposal also represents a commitment to leverage funds—further demonstrating the commitment from both the state and local levels.

I wish to express my full support for the TIGER Grant application being submitted by Okaloosa County, Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Sansom", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Ray Sansom