



**Arizona Department of Transportation**  
**Policy and Governmental Affairs**

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September 9, 2009

The Honorable Ray La Hood  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Border Road Improvement Coalition TIGER Grant Application

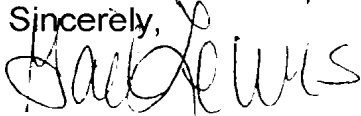
Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Arizona Department of Transportation, I am pleased to offer the agency's support for the TIGER grant application submitted by the Border Road Improvement Coalition (BRIC), a coalition of six local city and county government transportation departments that have joined together to address border road network issues along the Southeast Arizona border with Mexico.

This area is especially significant to the Nation with regard to Border Patrol operations that monitor illegal immigration, drug trafficking and Homeland Security threats. In addition, the area is home to Fort Huachuca, the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM)/9th Army Signal Command. The BRIC region also has three International Ports-of-Entry handling the transport of goods and material between the U.S. and Mexico, including a majority of winter fruits and vegetables consumed in the United States.

This is a truly unique area with a road network with important National Security and economic development implications, however, it is very sparsely populated and the local road and pedestrian network was never designed to be utilized by the vast amount border-related traffic it now services. This grant will begin to address critical resurfacing and pedestrian traffic needs facing the region. Through the unique BRIC partnership, this project is specifically responsive to the Department's request for projects that are innovative partnerships meeting a number of needs.

As the member of ADOT's senior management team overseeing border transportation issues, I offer the agency's support the BRIC grant application for funding under the Department of Transportation's TIGER grant program.

Sincerely,  
  
Gail Lewis

Assistant Director for Government Relations and Policy