



Arizona Department of Transportation
Intermodal Transportation Division

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September 4, 2009

Secretary Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: **BRIC TIGER Grant**
Transportation Infrastructure Improvements
Letter of Support

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to extend this letter of support for proposed improvements to the transportation infrastructure within the Border Road Improvement Coalition (BRIC). The Coalition consists of Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties as well as the cities of Bisbee, Douglas, Nogales, and Sierra Vista in southeastern Arizona. Predominantly a rural area, this unique part of Arizona is significant in many respects. The area encompassed by BRIC is home to three international ports-of-entry, the largest military installation in Arizona, and many vibrant and growing communities. Southeastern Arizona features a variety of settings that invite tourists to enjoy cultural, historic, and wildlife destinations.

The citizens of this region also face many challenges which are not limited to illegal immigration, drug smuggling, and homeland security matters. On top of these issues, the communities of BRIC struggle to develop and maintain transportation infrastructure that connects population centers stretched over large, sparsely inhabited areas. Due to the fact that state and federal funding allocations are primarily based on population and tax revenues, the resources necessary to maintain the road system in this region are unavailable, resulting in much of the transportation network being inadequate. International traffic and oversize loads transiting this area only compound the difficulty in maintaining these already degraded roadways.

BRIC members seek approximately \$100 million in TIGER funds to invest in the transportation infrastructure of the region. Any funds received will be divided among participants to improve several sites which are highlighted below as typical:

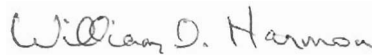
- Cochise County – improvements to Davis, Moson, and Palominas Roads which are heavily traveled arterials subject to flooding and pavement failure.
- Santa Cruz County – construction of a new bridge over the San Cruz River near Rio Rico where drivers now have to go 6 miles or more in either direction to cross the river.
- Bisbee – Resurface and improve Naco Highway which accesses an international port-of-entry and a large Border Patrol station.
- Douglas – Improve Chino Road to accommodate a new heavy truck route proposed by the Sonora DOT in Mexico and concurrent expansion of the international port-of-entry.

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- Nogales – Construct two pedestrian bridges over rail lines handling large volumes of international rail traffic.
- Sierra Vista – Build intersection improvements on Fry Boulevard at the access road to the main gate of Ft. Huachuca to serve a large and mixed flow of pedestrians, bicyclists, civilian and military traffic.

This is an exciting opportunity and I whole-heartedly endorse this proposed work that will benefit the citizens and visitors of southeastern Arizona. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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WH

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