



August 24, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Border Road Improvement Coalition TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary LaHood,

On behalf of the Greater Nogales and Santa Cruz County Port Authority (the Port Authority) I write to express our support for the Border Road Improvement Coalition TIGER Grant Application. It is our hope that with this grant we will be able to address of critical importance to our community: the construction of pedestrian overpasses over the railroad tracks.

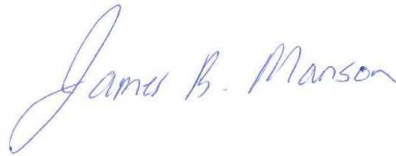
Every time a train crosses through our community, the community is divided which creates a number of hazard, including restricting the access for emergency respondents. Our community is dependent exclusively on at-grade crossings to get over the railroad tracks. With over 700 northbound trains each year (700 more southbound), the problems associated with the international crossing of trains is not only a daily issue but an issue multiple times each day. The only way to help alleviate the situation is to build both pedestrian and vehicular overpasses.

The Port Authority is comprised of the key stakeholders in the community, including the City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County, the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, the Customs Brokers Association of Nogales, the Maquila Association of Sonora, Santa Cruz Tourism Council, the Nogales Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, and the Nogales Community Development Corporation.

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Thank you for the attention you give to this critical request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Manson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James B. Manson
Chairman