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*The Senate of
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September 8, 2009

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

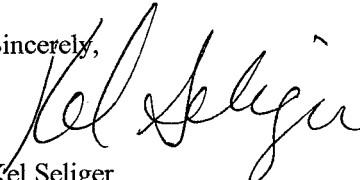
Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to my attention that the U.S. Department of Transportation (Department) is currently accepting applications for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, funded through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I am writing to express my strong support for the joint submission by the Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance (MOTRAN) and the Ports-to-Plains Coalition for funding of the expansion of a segment of State Highway 349 between Midland and Lamesa. Given the importance of this segment to the entire West Texas region and the strong base of local support for its expansion, I believe this project to be viable and worthy of receiving this funding.

Regional support for the project has been achieved through the unique partnership between MOTRAN and the Ports-to-Plains Coalition. Both entities have determined, through a thorough analysis of economic impact and job creation, the significant benefits to this economically disadvantaged region and to the entire State of Texas. This segment will have an even greater impact in terms of connectivity due to the rural nature of this area and will provide a vital link between the four largest cities in the area: Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland and Odessa.

Given the importance of this segment, I would respectfully urge your favorable consideration of the proposed project to receive funding through the TIGER Discretionary Grant. I thank you for your consideration of this matter, and greatly appreciate the work that you do to provide for the transportation needs of all Americans. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Kel Seliger