



October 7, 2011

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

Secretary LaHood,

I write this letter today on behalf of the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce and our 275 members, to support the Commonwealth of Kentucky's application for TIGER III grant funding for the development of Interstate 69 in western Kentucky. KYTC hopes to upgrade 27 miles of the Julian Carroll-Purchase Parkway from I-24 in Marshall County to US 45 in Mayfield to I-69 status.

I-69 is a multi-state corridor that promises significant economic development in seven states. Unlike other states, the majority of I-69 will follow existing four-lane fully controlled access parkways. SIU6 consists of upgrading the Julian Carroll-Purchase Parkway to maximize the use of the existing system. This will save tax payers hundreds of millions of dollars.

I-69 equates to economic development. Seventeen of the nation's top 25 seaports will be directly connected to Interstate 69. Fifteen of the nation's top 25 air cargo airports will be directly accessible to I-69. Studies show I-69 will return \$1.63 for every dollar invested. From Houston to Indianapolis, I-69 will create 27,000 jobs, add \$11 billion in wages and produce \$19 billion in value added through 2025. Additionally, there are more than 10.5 million people living below the poverty level in the seven I-69 states.

Thank you for your consideration of Kentucky's TIGER III grant application to upgrade much of SIU6 to become Interstate 69. The Marshall County Community is excited by the prospect of seeing such a large section of this vital project be open soon.

Sincerely,

Debbie Buchanan  
Executive Administrator

Copies: Governor Steve Beshear  
Senator Mitch McConnell  
Congressman Ed Whitfield

---

17 US Highway 68 W  
Benton, KY 42025  
Phone: (270) 527-7665  
chamber@marshallcounty.net  
www.marshallcounty.net