

## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

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August 18, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to write you in support of the National Interstate 69 Complete Section of Independent Utility (SIU) 5 Corridor project that seeks funding under the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program. The Commonwealth of Kentucky is honored to take the lead in the effort to secure grant funding for this project.

This project will convert the existing fully controlled facility to Interstate 69 and complete the entire 80 mile SIU 5 segment plus minor design exceptions and variances. This segment is an ideal candidate for the rural funding portion of the TIGER II grant program. Much of the corridor through western Kentucky consists of economically depressed communities that would directly benefit from the economic growth and opportunity an interstate highway system brings. By using these existing roadways, it will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and result in project completion years ahead of the typical construction timeframe for a project of this magnitude.

I hope you share my enthusiasm for the upgrades to the Section of Independent Utility 5 of I-69 project.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Beshear

