



TRANSPORTATION CABINET

Frankfort, Kentucky 40622
www.transportation.ky.gov/

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Michael W. Hancock, P.E.
Secretary

August 23, 2010

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I wish to state my support for funding a portion of Interstate 69 along our existing parkways. The Ford and Breathitt Parkways meet AASHTO interstate guidelines for most of the design elements. Many of the deficiencies could be considered acceptable under the principle of design flexibility allowed by AASHTO.

Kentucky understands the importance of completing National I-69. With increased trade in both Canada and Mexico, I-69 is a key corridor for national freight movement and enhancing U.S. global competitiveness. Improvements planned for the Panama Canal will increase north-south travel demands along the I-69 Corridor in a few short years.

The TIGER II Grant represents a great opportunity to move I-69 forward in Kentucky. Our General Assembly recently passed a Highway Plan that programmed \$51 million for I-69 Corridor projects in Kentucky. Of that, \$24 million is programmed for safety and operational improvements along the Ford and Breathitt Parkways that will allow future conversion to I-69.

Federal funding to complete I-69 in Kentucky is desperately needed. If funding should be awarded to complete Section of Independent Utility 5 on National I-69, it would be a national asset and of enormous benefit to all communities from Henderson to Eddyville in providing new jobs, preserving jobs, and providing growth opportunities for the future.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Hancock".

Michael W. Hancock, P.E.
Secretary



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