

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
House Transportation and Housing and
Urban Development Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Housing and
Urban Development Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

We write to request that you fully fund the President's request for \$1.25 billion for the TIGER program in the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017.

TIGER – formally known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery – is a nationwide competitive grant program that creates jobs by funding investments in transportation infrastructure by states, local governments, and transit agencies. The TIGER program funds projects that will have a significant regional impact and deliver benefits in five critical national objectives, including safety, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, quality of life, and environmental sustainability.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) evaluated the condition of America's public infrastructure in 2013 and gave our country a grade of "D+". ASCE estimates that we will need to invest \$3.6 trillion by 2020 in order to improve our nation's infrastructure.

Robust funding for TIGER will help to bring our nation's transportation infrastructure into the 21st century. TIGER grants have helped to finance a wide variety of innovative projects building and repairing roads, bridges, public transit systems, ports, rail lines, and bicycle and pedestrian networks. Moreover, TIGER encourages cooperation between agencies and jurisdictions and often funds multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are difficult to support through traditional transportation programs.

Safe, efficient transportation networks benefit the economy by facilitating the movement of goods and services and benefit individuals and communities by improving access to work, school, health facilities, shopping, and entertainment opportunities.

We therefore urge you to provide full funding of the President's request for \$1.25 billion for TIGER grants in FY 2017. We appreciate your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Waters

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