



August 17, 2009

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590

Attention: TIGER Discretionary Grant Review Team

Dear Mr. LaHood:

Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH) is a community asset and a major economic component of the region. An economic impact analysis performed by Wilbur Smith Associates on behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation indicated that the total economic impact of TLH exceeded \$319 million while being directly responsible for over 4,500 jobs in the community. While there has been significant development at the Airport and addition of new intra and interstate air services, traffic congestion on Capital Circle NW/SW has become an impediment.

An improved Capital Circle NW/SW is critical to TLH and the economic vitality of the Community. It is the major link to I-10 that connects TLH to its market area, and its commercial and cargo development to its transportation corridors. The traffic limitations on this roadway are detrimental to the future development of the Airport and impede economic development. Passengers and developers require ease of traffic flow to the transportation corridors.

The grant funding will reduce congestion at the Capital Circle/SR 20 intersection and improve access to the Airport and its future development parcels, assist in the Airport's cargo/freight movements and passenger flow, all of which will spur development, economic growth, and job creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth M. Austin".

Kenneth M. Austin  
Director of Aviation  
Tallahassee Regional Airport

KMA/amh