



September 14, 2009

Mr. Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Attention: Mr. Joel Szabat, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy

Dear Secretary LaHood:

This letter accompanies a TIGER Discretionary Grant application from the City of Ocoee that requests funding for a set of road improvements to provide alternatives to SR50 (West Colonial Drive) in Orange County.

As the designated metropolitan planning organization for the Orlando metropolitan area, METROPLAN ORLANDO supports this application. SR50 is a major east-west thoroughfare through the region. Substantial investments have been made to improve SR50 in recent years but we do not expect funding to be available to complete the entire project until 2020-2025.

Beyond the funding situation with SR50, the City of Ocoee's application makes some excellent points about the importance of having an effective local street network in place to serve local travel needs, rather than overburdening a major arterial. The "Shared Space" design concept is another noteworthy feature of the proposal.

If the City of Ocoee is awarded a TIGER grant, we are prepared to amend our region's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to fully incorporate these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold W. Barley".

Harold W. Barley
Executive Director

