



WILLIAMS TOWER II, SUITE 800  
TWO WEST SECOND STREET 74103  
918.584.7526 • FAX 918.583.1024

September 3, 2009

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



Re: TIGER Discretionary Grant Application for the "I-244 Bridge Reconstruction" in Tulsa, OK

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing to support the I-244 Bridge Reconstruction for the span crossing the Arkansas River in Tulsa. This span of bridge is currently rated as being structurally deficient. At its last inspection in December 2007, the bridge was given a rating of 37 out of 100 for structural integrity.

This bridge's importance for mobility in our region cannot be understated. We believe that the funding requested to replace this bridge will not only ensure the long term viability of the Tulsa Region's transportation infrastructure, but also ensure that there are connections via rail transit to Oklahoma City when funding is available to move forward on that front. The possible failure of this bridge would result in a loss of access to downtown Tulsa across the Arkansas River via a limited access facility.

Please consider our support for this project in your evaluation process. This is a truly multi-modal project which connects pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles, and transit across a critical river crossing in the region. Its approval is vital to the economic competitiveness of the Tulsa region.

On this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2009, with ten members present, the Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission voted unanimously with a 10-0-0 vote to support ODOT's grant application for the I-244 Bridge Reconstruction of the span crossing the Arkansas River in Tulsa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Cantrell".

Michelle Cantrell  
Chair, Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission