

May 14, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

Per the committee, I am submitting my transportation reauthorization HPP requests. All included requests have been submitted electronically and in hard copy to the committee. Any assistance you could offer in funding these worthwhile projects would be greatly appreciated.

JTA Regional Intermodal Center

The Florida Department of Transportation and Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) are funding the preliminary design of a full regional multi-modal transportation center near Downtown Jacksonville. This facility will serve rail, bus, rapid transit the existing Skyway system, intercity bus, pedestrian, parking, and bike modes. The configuration is being designed to promote Transit Oriented Development in support of the City's Master Plan. Funding is requested to complete design, acquisition of property, and construction. Much of the property is already owned by the transportation agencies. This effort will complete design and critical Right-of-way for the second phase and assist in construction activities.

JTA JaxPort Entrance Road

JTA seeks funding for the final design and construction of new port entrance roads and road capacity improvements to local roads in the vicinity of the port. This project will accommodate the significant increase in truck traffic from container port businesses. These roadways connect to SR-9A (I-295) and I-95. These improvements are critical to traffic operation in serving two new major international shipping container seaports, (Mitsui OSK and Hanjin Shipping). This road will connect major sea ports (commercial and passenger) to I-95, I-295 and commercial/ industrial developments and to an evacuation route for Duval County. Mitsui OSK began operations in early 2009 and another major international container shipping seaport (Hanjin) is scheduled to begin operations in late 2011 while bringing an estimated additional 12,000 jobs to the Northeast Florida area.

JTA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System

JTA requests funding for the design of portions of an approved Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor including bus lanes, critical right-of-way, signal priority, transit stations, access connections, and communications. Local funds are available for right of way matching. The project includes dedicated bus lanes, rapid transit stations, signal priority and intermodal connections. This project will modernize public transit in Jacksonville, FL.

JTA Commuter Rail Study

JTA seeks funding for completion of the Alternative Analysis for the three transit corridors studied. Nassau, Duval, Clay and St Johns counties have been involved in the planning for the rail program. The performed analysis will help pin-point the needs of riders in the Jacksonville area and then lead to modernization of transit and its many amenities in turn, creating jobs through road and infrastructure improvements related to the results of the study.

JTA Buses

JTA is seeking funding to replace aging rolling stock.

JTA Paratransit Vehicles

JTA is seeking funding to purchase additional paratransit vehicles.

JTA Regency /Beach Intersection

Funds will allow for additional and modified turn-lanes and upgraded signals at the intersection of two major urban roadways, Beach Boulevard (US-90) and University Boulevard (SR-09).

JTA I-95 Butler Blvd. Interchange

Funds will enable the completion of an Interchange between the major roadways of Interstate 95 and SR 202 which is critically needed to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety and capacity.

JTA Cecil Connector

Funds will enable design and right of way acquisition for an extension of Cecil Field Road from Branan Field Road to the Cecil Commerce Center Industrial Park to serve as an alternate North-South access to Cecil Commerce Center that will serve as an alternate route to reduce traffic and congestion along Branan Field-Chafee Road.

Jacksonville, FL Main St. Improvement's 295-Pecan Park

Funds will enable engineering, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction to widen Main Street (US-17) from two to four lanes between I-295 and Pecan Park Road in Jacksonville. Specifically, the project will expand Main Street from two to four lanes, bring Main Street up to applicable safety standards, and address traffic volume and congestion issues due to significant residential and commercial expansion.

Jacksonville, FL Heckscher Dr. /9A Interchange

Funds will enable design, engineering, right-of-way, and construction of interchange traffic flow improvements at the SR-9A and Heckscher Drive Interchange Area in Jacksonville. Once fully constructed, SR-9A will become a part of the interstate highway system as an extension of the I-295 loop.

Jacksonville, FL 9A expand I95 to Heckshire Dr.

Federal funding will enable right-of-way acquisition, mitigation, and construction of a ramp connecting northbound SR-9A with northbound I-95 at the I-95/I-295 north interchange in Jacksonville, FL.

Jacksonville, FL **Bay Street Multimodal Garage**

Construction of a 2000 space internal parking garage serving Interstate Highway, Train, skyway, and bus customers.

Jacksonville, FL **Soutel Drive Access Road**

Funding is being requested to make improvements to Soutel Drive to improve neighborhood safety.

JIA **North Access Rd**

The proposed project will complete the linkage for truck traffic southbound on I-95, allowing this traffic to enter the Air Cargo Terminal area without conflict with the primary passenger route. Completion of this project will increase JIA's capacity and decrease the number of traffic delays.

Gainesville **Buses**

The RTS is requesting funding for bus purchases with goal of replacing aging buses on a reasonable schedule and avoid the need for large fleet replacements every twelve years.

Gainesville RTS **Maintenance Facility Expansion**

This project includes expansion of operations and maintenance facility. The project includes acquisition of property and construction of new facility.

Gainesville RTS **Intelligent Transportation System**

Purchase of an Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) system to better monitor on-time performance (service reliability), gather data to improve system performance, and response time in emergency situations.

Gainesville **Depot Avenue**

To design, acquire right of way and reconstruct the Depot Avenue roadway in the corridor between US 441/SW 13th Street and SR 331/Williston Road, approximately 1.6 miles.

Gainesville **SW 62nd Blvd**

The project development, engineering analysis and public meetings were accomplished to develop an improved north-south corridor between SR 24 (Archer Road) and SR 26 (Newberry Road). Several alternatives were identified with four being determined viable and evaluated in greater detail.

Alachua County **Archer Braid Bike/Walking Trail**

Archer Braid is proposed as a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian way that will enhance connectivity between employment centers such as the University of Florida and Shands Hospitals, multiple residential neighborhoods, schools, businesses, parks and nature areas. Archer Braid will provide 8.7 miles of viable commuting alternatives for a large segment of the Gainesville population who normally travel by automobile on SW 20th Avenue and SW Archer Road.

Gainesville Airport Waldo Rd Airport Access Improvements

The Phase II construction of the new airport access road will connect SR 24 (Waldo Road) to the commercial airline terminal. This project previously received funding in the Department of Transportation Highway Reauthorization Bill, which allowed the airport to design the road and the ability to begin partial construction. A complete road will increase operational efficiency, improve public access to the airport, allow access to the airline terminal from SR 24 (Waldo Road) and serve as the primary gateway to the City of Gainesville.

Orlando Grand National Dr. Bridge/I-4 Access Rd

The Bridge Project will link the I-4 SUL ramps to the North International Drive Area. The SUL ramps are planned as part of the I-4 widening project which includes improvements to the I-4 at Kirkman Road Interchange. During FDOT's review of the I-4 SUL access points, the value engineering option of including the SUL ramps in the Bridge Project was identified and analyzed. Locating the SUL ramps in the project will result in increased levels of service on the area's roads and less congestion.

Orange County Innovation Way/Beachline Interchange

Innovation Way/BeachLine Interchange is a regionally significant transportation infrastructure project. The interchange will connect the Innovation Way extension (completed in 2008) to the BeachLine and to Innovation Way South. The interchange is critically needed to relieve dangerous traffic conditions in the area caused by congestion. It will provide safer passage for hundreds of central Floridians who travel this route daily and ultimately provide a north-south corridor connecting the University of Central Florida, Research Park, Avalon Park and other residential communities to the VA Hospital, the UCF Medical Center and the Orlando International Airport.

Orange County Sand Lake Dr./John Young Parkway Interchange

Project funding is requested for the construction of two lanes along Sand Lake Road from Turkey Lake Road to Presidents Drive and construction of a new interchange at John Young Parkway and Sand Lake Road.

Orange County John Young Parkway Extension Project

Construct and Extension of SR 423/434 Extension from Shader Rd. to to SR 424 (Edgewater Drive).

Orange-Orlando Expressway Authority SR417 & Boggy Creek Road

Reconstruction of the existing Interchange at SR 417 and Boggy Creek Road to serve the growing needs of Orlando International Airport and the new VA hospital and Medical City southeast of the airport.

LYNX Buses

The City of Orlando is seeking funding to improve and expand transit buses to meet increasing Orlando area service demands and to replace buses that are due for retirement.

Orlando, FL Performing Arts Center Road Improvements

To intercept with U.S. Highway 17.

FAMU

Center for Infrastructure Hazards

Florida A&M University (FAMU) seeks to establish a Center for Infrastructure Hazards (CIH) to focus on preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery issues. The Center will create a knowledge base for natural hazards (hurricane, flooding, fire, earthquake), manmade hazards (terrorism, structural collapse, threat from hazardous materials), infrastructure preparedness, response mitigation and recovery.

UNF

Accident Prevention IT System

The University of North Florida (UNF), in partnership with the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), will design and implement an Intelligent Traffic Control System (ITCS) for accident prevention. Using advanced traffic monitoring and control techniques, the system will provide an online accident prevention mechanism designed to reduce accidents and save lives.

Thank you for considering these projects.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

CB:nm