

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We write to express our support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VI grant application for the Tamiami Trail: Next Steps 2.6 mile bridge.

The Tamiami Trail: Next Steps 2.6 mile bridge is an integral piece of the Tamiami Trail Modifications for the Modified Waters Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project. The Tamiami Trail roadway has long been recognized as one of the primary barriers to the flow of water through the ecosystem. According to the National Research Council's "Progress toward Restoring the Everglades: The Third Biennial Review," additional bridging of Tamiami Trail is required to achieve significant ecological benefits because the bridge reestablishes historic flows into the most iconic and critical portions of these restorative efforts in Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

This project also supports the Department of Transportation's emphasis on economic growth, transportation safety, environmental stewardship and federal, state and local partnerships. With the completion of this project, the ecological connectivity between the marshes located in the Water Conservation Area and the Everglades National Park will be substantially improved. In addition, the planned construction of 2.6 miles of Tamiami bridging and road elevations also supports job creation and tourism in this region of Florida.

In short, this project is an outstanding example of cooperation among the State of Florida, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Interior in accomplishing our shared ecosystem restoration goals.

We urge your full and fair consideration of the TIGER funding requests for the Tamiami Trail: Next Step 2.6 mile bridge project.

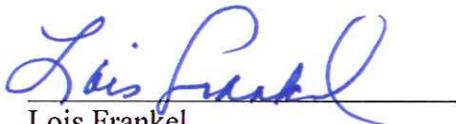
Sincerely,



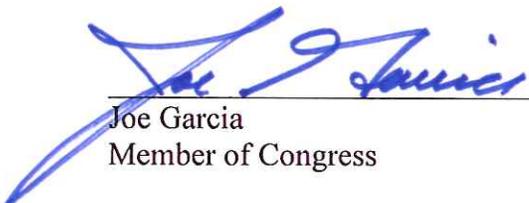
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



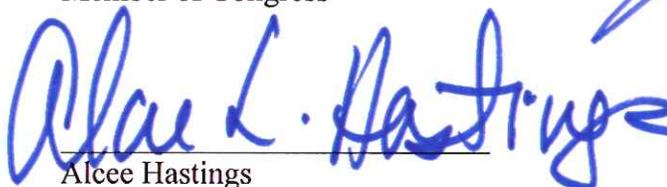
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



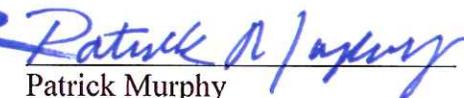
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



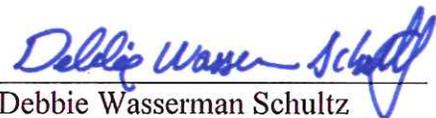
Joe Garcia  
Member of Congress



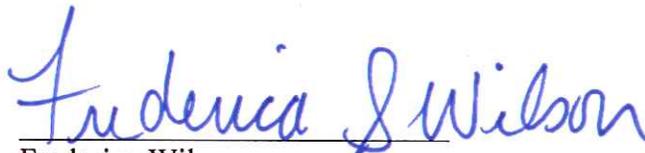
Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress