



**NORTHWEST  
ARKANSAS  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

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April 18, 2014

Lorie H. Tudor, P.E.  
Assistant Chief Engineer – Planning  
Arkansas State highway & Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203

Re: S. H. 265, from Randall Wobbe Lane in Springdale – Hwy. 264 in Bethel Heights  
(Benton County and Washington County, AR)

Dear Ms. Tudor:

As you know, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, the MPO for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Urbanized Area, considers the S.H. 265 north-south corridor from Fayetteville to Rogers, a critically important project of regional significance. With the exception of a 2.03 mile mid-section segment, which requires new construction on a new location, provisions have been made for the balance of the facility.

This has been accomplished through substantial partnering between local governments and AHTD. However, additional funding is not available in the foreseeable future, and local governmental funding options have all been exhausted. As such, our agency has committed all funds it has available (\$750,000), and has authorized partnering with AHTD in the filing of a TIGER VI application to the U. S. Department of Transportation for \$18.5 million in funding to complete the project.

This regionally significant project will benefit numerous jurisdictions in the Northwest Arkansas region, and will provide significant congestion relief for I-540 and U.S. 71. We appreciate AHTD's efforts in the preparation and filing of the application, and its commitment to partner with available Arkansas State Fuel Tax funds, and we are pleased to join with you in this TIGER VI application.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hawkins  
Executive Director

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0403

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

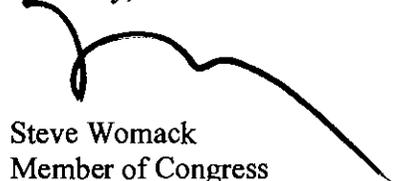
Dear Secretary Foxx,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's (AHTD) application for TIGER VI funding to widen and relocate a portion of State Highway 265 between Springdale and Bethel Heights. I understand that this grant is competitive, and I request all full and fair consideration of AHTD's proposal. Funding for this Capital Project would significantly improve the flow of vehicle traffic on existing north-south routes in Northwest Arkansas.

With the Northwest Arkansas MPO's partnering commitment, the TIGER grant would provide the funding needed to complete the final project to widen Highway 265 between Highway 16 in south Fayetteville to State Highway 264 in Bethel Heights, a distance of approximately 12 miles. AHTD previously identified a need for improvements and new construction on State Highway 265 to create a north-south corridor that will relieve traffic congestion on the east side of Rogers, Springdale and Fayetteville.

I also express support for the additional TIGER VI funding requests made by AHTD that will positively benefit the entire state – including my district – such as the development of a State Freight Plan for the State of Arkansas and the development of a Transportation Asset Management Plan. AHTD is working hard to ensure the State of Arkansas can address its transportation infrastructure needs, and I believe its proposed use of TIGER VI funding will make a difference in that effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

SW/kw