

JOHN BOOZMAN  
ARKANSAS

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
202-224-4843

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Foxx,

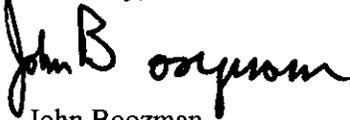
I am very happy to express my support for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) proposal to receive funding through the TIGER grant. AHTD will use funds received to widen and relocate 2.03 miles of Highway 265 from Randall Wobbe Lane in Springdale to Highway 264 in Bethel Heights.

This project is the missing link to an otherwise fully funded North-South corridor linking Fayetteville to Rogers. The purpose of the project is to enhance mobility in the Northwest Arkansas metro area. It will provide a much needed regional connection from Fayetteville, through Springdale, Bethel Heights, Lowell, Bentonville, and into Rogers. This corridor will alleviate traffic congestion on existing North-South routes, especially Highway 71B.

Substantial economic and population growth has occurred in the region during the past 15 years. This growth is expected to continue over the next 20 years. Improvements to Highway 265 will assist in providing the infrastructure needed to serve this expansion, thus contributing to the economic health of the area. I hope you will share my belief that this project clearly fits the application guidelines and will be beneficial to residents in Arkansas.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this matter, and please keep me informed of the status of this funding request. I am grateful for the help your office provides to the people of Arkansas.

Sincerely,



John Boozman  
U.S. Senator

JB: tr

106 W. MAIN ST.  
SUITE 104  
EL DORADO, AR 71730  
870-863-4641

1120 GARRISON AVE.  
SUITE B  
FORT SMITH, AR 72901  
479-573-0189

300 S. CHURCH ST.  
SUITE 400  
JONESBORO, AR 72401  
870-268-6925

1401 W. CAPITOL AVE.  
PLAZA F  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201  
501-372-7153

213 W. MONROE  
SUITE N  
LOWELL, AR 72745  
479-725-0400

1001 HWY. 62 E.  
SUITE 11  
MOUNTAIN HOME, AR 72653  
870-424-0129

620 E. 22<sup>ND</sup> ST.  
SUITE 204  
STUTTGART, AR 72160  
870-672-6941

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

May 14, 2015

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

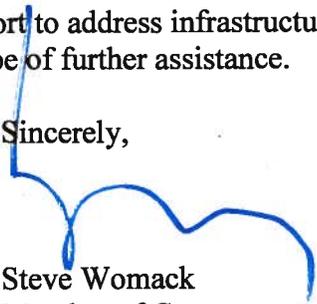
Dear Secretary Foxx,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's (AHTD) application for TIGER VII funding. AHTD seeks to use this grant 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 will 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 will provide the funding needed to complete the final project to widen Hwy 265 between State Highway 16 in south Fayetteville and State Highway 264 in Bethel Heights, a distance of approximately 12 miles. AHTD previously identified a need for improvements and new construction on Hwy 265 to create a north-south corridor that will relieve traffic congestion on the east side of Rogers, Springdale and Fayetteville.

The State of Arkansas continues to benefit from the leadership of AHTD Director Scott Bennett and his team of transportation professionals. I believe the TIGER VII funds requested by AHTD will make a difference in their effort to address infrastructure needs in Arkansas. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

SW/al



4100 Corporate Center Drive  
Suite 205  
Springdale, Arkansas 72762  
479.582.2100

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May 11, 2015

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

Re: State Highway 265, from Randall Wobbe Lane in Springdale to Arkansas 264 in Bethel Heights (Benton and Washington counties) – TIGER VII Application

Dear Mr. Thornton:

I'm writing to you today to put the Northwest Arkansas Council's unwavering support behind an application for TIGER VII funding to assist in upgrading Arkansas State Highway 265 in Springdale and Bethel Heights.

As you may know, individuals that included Sam Walton, Alice Walton, Don and John Tyson, Mark Simmons and J.B. Hunt founded the Council in 1990. We're a private nonprofit organization with more than 100 members, and some of our highest priorities are improvements to infrastructure. We've worked with local communities, state government and federal agencies in the past on some of the region's largest projects, including the construction of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport and the widening of U.S. 412 between Springdale and Siloam Springs. Those were both huge successes for Northwest Arkansas and those projects have made our state's overall infrastructure stronger.

Our region's business community and their employees need more ways to move throughout the region, and a better Arkansas Highway 265 would be a major step forward. Drivers' best north-south options are U.S. 71 and Interstate 49, and an improved 265 would make it a viable north-south option.

Our region's companies with industrial locations in the Randall Wobbe Lane area of Springdale have limited options, and their trucks are often required to pull into a traffic-congested area at Randall Wobbe and Thompson Street (U.S. 71) in Springdale. If there was an improved Arkansas 265, they are likely to avoid that Thompson Street intersection and head east to 265, making travel better and safer for the big trucks and other motorists.

Finally, Arkansas Highway 265 in the long term will be an important north-south connector to the future east-west U.S. 412 Bypass of Springdale. While the overall 412

project is not fully funded, the \$100 million groundbreaking on April 15 of this year and the start of a four-mile section of that highway demonstrates Arkansas' overall commitment to that project. Once additional 412 funding is identified and further extensions occur, it will be necessary to upgrade the exact section of 265 that would benefit from TIGER VII funding.

Arkansas demonstrated its commitment to highway improvements statewide with the voter-approved passage of a half-cent sales tax in 2012, and voters in Northwest Arkansas cities have consistently passed their own sales taxes to support road improvement. The Arkansas Highway 265 improvements that have already occurred in Springdale and Fayetteville are examples of this region's commitment to improved highways as those projects received both local and state funding.

In short, we've taxed ourselves to make our region's road and highway network stronger. Now, the region is asking for a TIGER VII grant, and we'd appreciate that support.

Sincerely,



Mike Malone  
President and CEO  
Northwest Arkansas Council



May 8, 2015

1311 CLAYTON ST. • SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS 72762

(479) 751-7125

FAX (479) 751-7150

Kevin Thornton, 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) – TIGER VII Application

Dear Mr. Thornton:

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 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 been exhausted. As such, our agency has committed all the funds it has available (\$3,750,000), and has authorized partnering with AHTD in the filing of a TIGER VII 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-49 and U.S. 71. We appreciate AHTD's efforts in the filing of this application, and its commitment to partner with available Arkansas State Fuel Tax funds. We are pleased to join with you in this TIGER VII application.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hawkins  
Executive Director



Leading Business,  
Leading Springdale.

May 7, 2015

Mr. Scott Bennett  
Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Mr. Jeff Hawkins  
NWA Regional Planning Commission  
1311 Clayton Street  
Springdale, AR 72762

Dear Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hawkins;

I am writing on behalf of the Springdale Chamber of Commerce in support of your co-application for Tiger VII funding to improve Arkansas Highway 264 from Randall Wobbe Road in Springdale north to Arkansas Highway 264.

As you know, this portion of Highway 265 services our city's diverse manufacturing sector and the thousands of commuting employees working at those plants. This highway also serves our Springdale Technology Park, home to one of the world's leading innovators in the area of nanotechnology.

Increasingly, Highway 265 is becoming an major alternate north-south route for all of Northwest Arkansas and its more than 500,000 residents. Improvements to this highway will positively impact our city's economy and quality of life.

Sincerely,



Perry Webb  
President and CEO



2423 East Robinson Avenue, Springdale, Arkansas 72764

Kevin Thornton  
Assistant Chief Engineer, Planning  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Kevin,

In regards to the widening of HWY 265 from north of Randell Wobbe lane to HWY 264. I want to express the interest that Ozark Regional Transit has in this project.

In its current form, 265 is not conducive to any form of multi-modal transportation. Whether it be large OTR trucking, public transit, bicycle or walking. The road is narrow with deep ditches on either side of it, has no real shoulder, no sidewalks and is generally unfit for additional modes of travel beyond passenger cars.

Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) supports the widening of this section of 265 as a use for public transit. If this section of 265 was brought to the same standards of the rest of 265, ORT could utilize this entire thoroughfare as a primary or alternative solution in public transit. The connectivity of the City of Fayetteville, through Springdale and to Lowell would provide citizens an alternative choice in moving throughout Northwest Arkansas other than their POV's. The availability of an alternative north-south corridor to HWY 71B, would enable design and implementation of routes that could swiftly move people between Lowell and Fayetteville and alleviate congestion along the 71B corridor.

I sincerely hope that AHTD is successful in their submission of, and granting of the funding option through the TIGER grant process to obtain the necessary funds to support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Gardner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel Gardner  
Executive Director  
Ozark Regional Transit



Mayor Doug Sprouse

201 Spring Street  
Springdale, Arkansas 72764  
(479) 750.8114  
(479) 750.8559 fax  
[www.SpringdaleAR.gov](http://www.SpringdaleAR.gov)

May 8, 2015

Mr. Scott Bennett  
Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Mr. Jeff Hawkins  
NWA Regional Planning Commission  
1311 Clayton Street  
Springdale, AR 72762

Dear Mr. Bennett and Mr. Hawkins;

On behalf of the city of Springdale, I want to express my full support of your co-application for Tiger VII funding to improve Arkansas Highway 265 from Randall Wobbe Road in Springdale north to Arkansas Highway 264.

As this highway has been improved from Fayetteville to Springdale, its use and importance to our city has increased. Arkansas Highway 265 helps transport thousands of employees to our manufacturing plants, our technology park, and our municipal airport. It also is a vital corridor for Northwest Arkansans to reach Downtown Springdale and the half dozen visitor destinations located there. Improving Highway 265 north of our city will enhance the impact the highway has on our city and our economy.

As our region has surpassed 500,000 residents, Highway 265 has become an important north-south route. The improvements for which you seek funding will be far reaching in improving Northwest Arkansas' transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

  
Doug Sprouse  
Mayor

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 11 2015  
Asst. Chief Engr.-Planning

**RECEIVED**

MAY 11 2015

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT