



August 11, 2009

Secretary Raymond H. LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Subject: Application for TIGER Funds - City of Anaheim, California
(Orange County) - Gene Autry Way (West) Highway/Interstate 5
HOV Interchange Project**

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA) strongly supports the City of Anaheim's grant application requesting \$29 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds.

For more than 100 years, the Auto Club, as the AAA's largest affiliate, has been advocating for traffic safety and better mobility on behalf of our members, currently more than 6 million in Southern California and in more than 60% of Orange County households.

Orange County is the nation's 5th largest county and its regional transportation agency, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), in collaboration with stakeholders, has selected the Gene Autry Way (West) Highway/I-5 HOV Interchange Project as the single highest countywide priority project for potential use of TIGER funds.. This decision is a clear testament to this project's importance for Orange County and the Southern California region.

Latest data indicates that an Orange County commuter annually wastes 52 gallons of fuel in traffic jams, spends \$1,640 in computed costs for wasted time and fuel, and spends 82 hours stuck in the traffic congestion. The Gene Autry Way (West) Highway/I-5 HOV Interchange Project will no doubt reduce these costs by improving circulation in and through City of Anaheim.

Providing service to more than 10 million members

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The City of Anaheim is critical to Orange County's tourism industry, housing Angels Stadium, Honda Center, Disneyland, and the Anaheim Convention Center, which is the largest convention center on the West Coast. The Gene Autry Way/I-5 project is not only critical to the economic survivability of these major commercial centers, but it is also vital to the livability and safety of Anaheim residents and visitors from across the world.

We hope you agree with us that this project well deserves to receive TIGER funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hamid Bahadori", written in a cursive style.

Hamid Bahadori
Public Policy and Programs