



U.S. Department of  
Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Under Secretary for Policy

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

May 14, 2010

The Honorable Cass R. Sunstein  
Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Sunstein:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is requesting an emergency approval of an information collection for the "TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program", an infrastructure investment program authorized under the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010 (Div. A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-117, Dec. 16, 2009)) ("FY 2010 Appropriations Act").

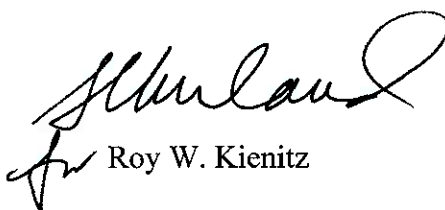
The program is a successor to the TIGER Discretionary Grant program authorized pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "Recovery Act"), and has similar purposes – to advance significant transportation projects including those that will stimulate job creation and economic recovery. However, like the Recovery Act, the FY 2010 Appropriations Act provides strict timelines for implementing the program, which necessitate this emergency request.

On April 26, 2010, DOT published an interim notice of funding availability for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant program, requesting applications from interested project sponsors. By law, DOT may not announce grant awards before September 15, 2010, and consistent with the Administration's economic recovery efforts, the Department plans to announce the awards as soon as possible thereafter. The statutory deadline for obligating TIGER II funds is September 30, 2012. Based on our experience with the Recovery Act's TIGER program, delays in collecting applications for the TIGER II program beyond this summer will make it less likely that the Department will be able to meet the statutory deadline for obligating funds.

Given our strong desire to see the TIGER II grant funds contribute to economic recovery, and the need for the Department to meet the deadlines established by Congress (which are comparable to the Recovery Act deadlines for the TIGER program), we respectfully request an emergency approval of the information collection for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program.

If there are any questions about this request please feel free to contact me at (202) 366-4544 or Beth Osborne, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, at (202) 366-4544.

Sincerely,



Roy W. Kienitz