



COMMONWEALTH OF  
PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Highway and  
Transportation Authority

April 16, 2014

Hon. Anthony R. Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Letter of Support for TIGER 2014 Grant Application  
"Paseo Puerta de Tierra" and Connections in the City of San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Secretary Foxx:

The Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) and the Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) have adopted goals and objectives to plan and develop a multi-modal transportation system that integrates all transportation modes in order to improve the mobility and access conditions, create a more livable urban environment and a more efficient transportation system, including the use of non-motorized modes.

The Vehicle and Traffic Law of Puerto Rico (Law Num. 132 of June 3, 2004, amending the Law Num. 22 of January 7, 2000), declares as public policy of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to provide the conditions that enable and promote the use and enjoyment of the bicycle as a means of transportation or recreation (Article 11.02).

The Puerto Rico Long Range Transportation Plan 2040 (PRLRTP), and the Regional Transportation Plans prepared by the PRHTA were approved on December, 2013. They include a plan for non-motorized modes to promote and develop bicycle and pedestrian projects that allow us to encourage cycling and walking, not only for connection to employment centers, but also for recreational and tourism purposes, as a healthy alternative, economically and environmentally sustainable mode of transportation.

The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan for the San Juan Metropolitan Area, the Capital and major urban area of the island of Puerto Rico, proposes a Pedestrian and Bicycle Network that will connect different public and private employment generators, recreational areas, parks and open

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spaces, natural reserves, adjacent to its waterways, and along the Atlantic Ocean urban waterfront. This plan aims to create a network of greenways, trails, bike routes and lanes, in order to interconnect and provide physical and visual access to employment centers, the major plazas, open spaces, natural and cultural areas, and urban waterfronts.

The "Paseo Puerta de Tierra" is part of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian network for the San Juan Metropolitan Area envisioned for 2040 in order to provide a bicycle and pedestrian corridor along the northern edge of the San Juan Islet, to be developed in the short term, as included in the PRLRTP (Page 2-54). The proposed bicycle and pedestrian network also envisions the project as a complete street, in compliance with Puerto Rico Complete Streets Law of December 2010 to provide safe and affordable access for people of all ages and abilities, and as a contribution to the efforts of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2012-2020), which calls on the world to unite and prevent road injury and deaths.

The "Paseo Puerta de Tierra" and its connections to the Central Park in Santurce Area and the Linear Park Enrique Martí Coll, along the Martín Peña Channel, as well as the pedestrian improvements for the Calaf and Prudencio Rivera Martínez Streets, will have a direct impact in enhancing the quality of life of residents and visitors by reducing the time spent in traffic of thousands commuters while increasing the intermodal connection providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities and improving the public transportation corridor. Therefore, DTPW strongly support this initiative as part of our mission to improve the quality of life of the residents and visitors of the Municipality of San Juan.

Sincerely,



Javier E. Ramos Hernández, PE  
Executive Director