



COMMONWEALTH OF
PUERTO RICO
Economic Development

Alberto Bacó Bagueé
Secretary

April 25, 2014

Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Science City Urban Infrastructure Project -- Proposal for TIGER Grant

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DDEC), which is the State Government's instrumentality chartered with execution of Puerto Rico's public policy on economic development, fully supports the Science City Urban Infrastructure Project proposed by the Puerto Rico Infrastructure Finance Authority. The project's proposed avenues, with their accommodations for pedestrian, bicycle and trolley traffic, will lay the foundation for the successful development of the Science City district and provide the physical link between the district and the new M.D. Anderson Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital and the *Centro Médico* medical facility complex, all within the context of the San Juan Knowledge Corridor* that is currently under development.

The proposed TIGER project is centered around the Science City district, a publicly-owned, 70 acre parcel with potential development sites for life science and other high-technology industries, education and new lifestyle neighborhoods, all interconnected by the modern *Tren Urbano* ("Urban Train") mass transit system and Puerto Rico's Metropolitan Bus Authority system.

*The Knowledge Corridor is an innovative, exciting Commonwealth initiative which builds upon existing a disconnected network of the Island's premier research, academic, and health facilities stretching along PR Highway 21, from the University of Puerto Rico's Rio Piedras campus to the Veterans Administration's Caribbean Health System Hospital just to the west of the medical center.

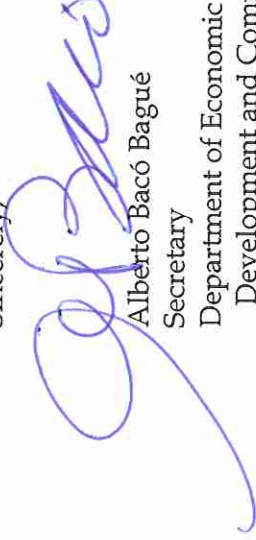


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The Science City is located in San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico and the most populous city with approximately 400,000 inhabitants. It is also the hub of a metropolitan region of nearly 1.5 million people (almost half the island's population) and thus, as the commercial, industrial and educational hub of the Island, it plays a decisive role in the Puerto Rico's economic success – or failure.

The improvements envisioned in the project constitute the next critical step within the development of the Knowledge Corridor context, providing the new Science City district Corridor with the necessary infrastructure to stimulate growth mostly in biosciences and jobs for the people of San Juan and the adjacent region. I urge you to give every possible consideration to this important initiative. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alberto Bacó Bagué
Secretary
Department of Economic
Development and Commerce