

Office of the Mayor
Andrew "FoFo" Gilich



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April 22, 2016

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

RE: FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program Application: Biloxi Bridge of Opportunity

Dear Mr. Foxx:

In connection with the City of Biloxi's application for FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program, the City is totally committed to the Biloxi Bridge to Opportunity, also known as Phases 1 and 2 of the US Hwy 90/Woolmarket Connector. This project will fill a critical void in the local transportation system connecting the main north-south state highway (U.S. Hwy 67) with the Mississippi Coast Convention Center and public beaches, all situated on the main east-west state highway (U.S. Hwy 90). This will serve as a major economic stimulus to recovery of the tourism industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that has been devastated by Hurricane Katrina and the Great Recession.

In order to contribute the required twenty percent (20%) match of funds, which in this case totals Nineteen Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$19,300,000), the City will seek nonfederal funding from sources such as Mississippi Development Authority and Mississippi Department of Transportation grants, BP Deepwater Horizon funding sources and Tax Increment Financing.

However, I want to make it abundantly clear that, in the event all other sources of funding fail, the City of Biloxi is prepared to issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount sufficient to fund the necessary match of grant funds if awarded to the City of Biloxi. Our commitment to this project is such that our City Council has authorized the issuance of these bonds concurrently with its authorization of our FY2016 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program Application. Currently, our City's most recent bond rating is AA- from Standard & Poors, and we have every reason to believe that our next rating will be at least that level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Gilich".

Andrew "FoFo" Gilich