



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

August 17, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
9th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We support the application for a National University Transportation Center (UTC) submitted by the University of South Florida (USF) and its partners, North Dakota State University and the University of Michigan. They are also joined by Georgia Tech, the University of Illinois Chicago, San Jose State University, and Texas A&M University. The consortium of schools will work to address issues related to reducing congestion and improving the mobility of people and goods

The partnership between USF and the consortium of universities from almost every region bring together the strongest public transit programs and researchers in one UTC, with different strengths in serving both urban and rural areas. Members of this consortium are national leaders in the emerging concept of Mobility as a Service, whereby a variety of mobility services are made available to anyone through mobile, interoperable multimodal fare payment. USF's National Center for Transit Research has also been the only federally funded UTC in the country to concentrate on public and alternative forms of transportation since 1991.

The UTC grant will provide support for nationally focused research and training that help transit agencies serve a changing population with developing technologies. Research and training will create a future with improved technology that can boost local economies while employing large numbers of people, and helping advance ladders of opportunities in many communities. This consortium is uniquely prepared to make vital contributions critical to the future of transporting goods and people. We hope you will give their application all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Heitkamp".

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
August 17, 2016
Page Two



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator