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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3602

September 11, 2009

Re: City of Durant, OK ~ Partnerships Supporting Economic Recovery

To the TIGER Grant Review Team:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in support of the TIGER Discretionary application benefitting the City of Durant, Oklahoma requesting essential funding for multiple surface transportation projects critically needed for economic growth in Durant and for the surrounding areas located in southeastern Oklahoma. The grant request of approximately \$20 million dollars will provide short and long-term opportunities for job creation during and beyond construction, as well as preserving the current jobs, and will generate commerce for literally hundreds of jobs for this rural area.

The City of Durant has been recognized statewide and nationally for intense efforts promoting economic development. The city's *TEAM Durant* approach has made a significant impact in the southeastern Oklahoma region, and in order to continue their endeavors, the proposed transportation projects are critically needed to provide the much needed jobs and economic development.

As the county seat for Bryan County and due to the close proximity location to the Texas state line, the roadways in this area are beyond capacity and causing safety concerns. With the new State Highway 70 bypass under construction, the proposed infrastructures are equally important as major arterial links to the bypass and US Highway 69 / 75.

The proposed roadway and bridge improvements are absolutely necessary to replace some antiquated infrastructure, provide access to industrial parks, improve safety measures and accommodate the growth occurring in this area. Without these improvements, the city will have a difficult time recruiting new businesses for job opportunities so desperately needed in this low-income area.

Without the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act TIGER Program funds, the City of Durant will not have the financial means to complete the identified projects.

Sincerely,

Dan Boren

Member of Congress

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