



THE CITY OF DURANT

Office of the Mayor

September 15, 2009

US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

To the TIGER Grant Review Team:

As an elected official for the City of Durant, I appreciate the sincere opportunity to support the TIGER grant application for multiple roadway and bridge improvements benefitting the Durant and Bryan County citizens, visitors and the entire southeastern Oklahoma region.

It is my earnest intent, as an active member of TEAM DURANT, to continue the partnerships throughout the region with entities and citizens to promote fervent economic development efforts to bring business, new jobs and families to Durant, Oklahoma. In support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the city has developed *Partnerships Supporting Economic Recovery*, and is promoting this concept to the entities here in Durant, Oklahoma to make an economic development impact locally, regionally and for the nation.

The requested funds in the amount of **\$19,995,610** for the identified surface transportation projects are vital to sustain the economic growth that has happened here in Durant over the past 10 years. The economic downturn is now affecting the City of Durant with increased unemployment, decreasing sales tax revenues and home foreclosures.

The Durant Industrial Authority, existing businesses and the Choctaw Nation are developing economic investments to create over 1,000 jobs within the next three years. An additional 740 jobs and \$142 million in private investment dollars are pending final contract arrangements with the Durant Industrial Authority and Economic Development Department. Several hundred immediate jobs will be created during the two year construction phase.

All of the proposed transportation improvements are equally essential to continue the City of Durant's determined efforts towards economic development, quality of life, safety and partnerships. Due to the geographic location, Durant is committed to emergency preparedness efforts for city, regional, state and national security initiatives locally, OK Homeland Security Office and surrounding states.

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 supporting economic development.

Respectfully,

Jerry L. Tomlinson
Mayor