



Mayor Tammy de Weerd

**City Council Members:**

Keith Bird

Brad Hoaglund

Charles Rountree

David Zarembo

September 9, 2009

TIGER Discretionary Grants Manager  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear TIGER Grant Review Committee:

The City of Meridian submits this letter in support of the East-West Commute Corridors Alternative Transportation Package Project application submitted by Valley Regional Transit for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant funding. This comprehensive group project provides both the needed infrastructure and capital improvements to meet current travel demands and position transit in our region to handle future growth. The proposed service additions will test demand along current gaps in our east-west commute corridors and the high capacity corridor study will lay the ground work for a system that is anticipated to meet future transit needs of the Treasure Valley region.

The Treasure Valley has been one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, and Meridian has been and continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in the Valley. The growth pattern realized over the past several years has a majority of the housing expansion occurring in north Meridian neighborhoods along or near the proposed Ustick Bus Route. However, the transit demand has not yet been met with a fixed-line bus service. We are hopeful that the Ustick Bus Route can relieve some of the congestion created by commuters trying to get into and out of downtown Boise during peak hours. The current travel along the connecting arterials is inefficient which is constraining business expansion and prohibiting the attraction of new businesses to the area.

A TIGER Grant funding the capital and service project will allow the City of Meridian and the other jurisdictions in our region to save and pool our local matching funds for other inter-county services. Without a TIGER Grant, it would take nearly 10 years for our region to complete the projects requested in the Grant application, leaving very limited resources to increase or expand other services.

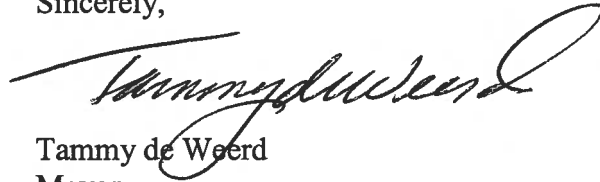
This project is expected to meet some of the travel demand and decrease travel times in the area, but more importantly, it will stimulate the economy by creating jobs and providing long-term

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community benefits that will position the Treasure Valley to grow well into the future. For these reasons, the City of Meridian fully supports this TIGER Grant application. Thank you for considering this project for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tammy de Weerd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Tammy de Weerd  
Mayor

cc: Matt Stoll, COMPASS  
Kelli Fairless, VRT