

# TIGER: Lessons for Transportation Reform



Tyler Meyer, AICP

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"With more than 1,000 projects competing for the \$600 million in TIGER II funds, it is clear that there is significant pent-up demand for investments in multimodal transportation improvements."

John Horsley, Executive Director, AAHSTO

"The great variety of highly beneficial projects that were selected for funding through the competitive TIGER II grant process serves as an excellent complement to the ongoing work being done by state and local transportation agencies in applying federal formula funds - \$42 billion for highways and \$11 billion for transit - to the pressing transportation needs facing our cities and states."

John Horsley, Executive Director, AAHSTO

“The Bridge to Nowhere became such a symbol because there are no cost benefit criteria that can justify a project like that, there simply aren’t. And the American people understand that... Until you establish credibility again in how decisions are made, we’ve got a heckuva problem on our hands. It has eroded support in the country in the last few years particularly for spending substantial additional sums on transportation.”

James H. Burnley, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation

“The federal program has evolved into what is now essentially a block grant model, with little accountability for specific outcomes. Developing performance standards and integrating them into a performance-driven regimen will be challenging but we believe the rewards will be worth the effort.”

“We... must create a system where investment is subject to benefit-cost analysis and performance based outcomes.”

National Surface Transportation Policy & Revenue Study  
Commission

“TIGER grants are one of the best ways to maximize the local knowledge of local and regional infrastructure needs. TIGER grants allow on-the-ground leaders to set priorities for their communities. This allows a community’s own vision to become the starting point for new projects; reduces wasteful projects; and supports local economic development and competitiveness.”

Donald J. Borut, NLC, Executive Director

# What set these projects apart?

- State of good repair
- Economic competitiveness
- Livability
- Sustainability
- Safety
- Job creation
- Innovation
- Partnership





- Steps in the right direction
- Implications for future funding
- Sensitivity to low-income community needs?



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