



S O U T H E A S T E R N  
E C O N O M I C A L L I A N C E

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Southeastern Economic Alliance (SEA), a coalition of 15 chambers of commerce representing over 34,000 businesses across six southeastern states, supports current and future applications for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding submitted by our member states of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue the development of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor (SEHSR).

The members of the SEA are not only committed to the concept of high-speed inter-city rail, but are also committed to cooperatively advocate for additional funding and support for the implementation of rail service in our respective states.

Past studies have ranked the southeastern corridor as the most economically viable alignment among all federally designated high-speed rail routes. Implementation of service along the entire corridor would connect a multi-state region of 47 million people, linking four state capitols, 750,000 college and university students at various institutions along the route, and more than 50 Fortune 1000 companies.

The multi-year, incremental SEHSR planning, development and deployment process is a push toward a powerful regional and national economic asset that will boost economic vitality and improve quality of life in one of the fastest growing parts of the US. ARRA investment in SEHSR will provide a broad array of benefits now and well into the future.

We urge your strong support of what is already proving to be a high-yield infrastructure investment.

Sincerely,

Chuck Meadows,  
Executive Director  
Southeastern Economic Alliance

