

CARLOS CURBELO  
26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

EDUCATION AND THE  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0926**

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Jim Boxold  
Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Dear Secretary Boxold:

I write to you today regarding the Federal Highway Administration's recent announcement to repurpose previously unused earmarks. This decision will allow these funds to be put back to work to support infrastructure projects across the country. I fully support the repurposing of two Homestead earmarks on the list below back to the City for their proposed Multimodal Transit Center, a crucial component of the City's overall economic development.

The City of Homestead has two earmarks to note:

Demo ID	Demo Description	Allocated Amount*	Obligated Amount	Unobligated Balance	% Obligated
FL151	Homestead, FL Widening of SW 328 from SW 137 Ave. to 152 Ave	\$5,608,260.00	\$10,158.00	\$5,598,102.00	0.18%
FL190	Homestead, FL Widening of SW 320 Street (Mowry Drive) from Flagler Avenue to SW 187 Avenue	\$2,002,950.00	\$0.00		

When the City bid on the first project in 2005 (ID# FL151), Homestead Air Force Base opposed it. The project is a perimeter road around the Base, and due to modified Accident Potential Zone borders, the base opposed this request as a potential encroachment, weakening the Base for BRAC. The second earmark, also in 2005 (ID # FL190), wasn't used because Miami Dade County completed some of the work before the City could use the earmark, and because of the later earmark restrictions imposed by Congress, the funding could not be reprogrammed.

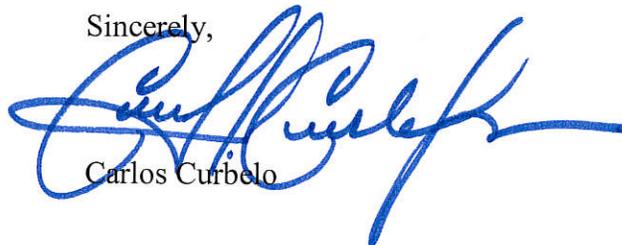
Despite the City's inability to use the funds in years past, they now have a priority project for which they hope the state will consider: the Multimodal Transit Center. Located directly adjacent to the Miami Dade Busway – the main public transportation option to employment centers north of Homestead – the Center will incorporate a 1,000 space garage/park and ride, a Bus Rapid Transit Station, the hub of the Homestead Trolley, and 105,000 square feet of retail and family entertainment uses in the heart of historic downtown Homestead. This Transit Center has the potential to draw over 300,000 additional visitors to downtown Homestead every year, all while retaining the feel of the historic downtown quarter. Equally important is the strategic importance of Homestead, as it is not only the sole gateway to the Keys in the event of an emergency, but is also home to the Homestead Reserve Air Base and the Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station.

According to the City, the proposed Multimodal Transit Center also meets USDOT's criteria. This falls under an eligible project in 23 USC 133(b) parts 5 and 6, as a transit project used to provide intercity passenger service by bus and carpool, and corridor parking facility.

The total cost of the Multimodal Transit Center is \$33.5 million. Miami Dade County is contributing \$1.5 million in Economic Development Funds to the project and the City of Homestead is leveraging its Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust monies to fund a \$25 million dollar revenue bond. This leaves the City with approximately \$7 million of funds to produce – the sum of both of these earmarks.

I respectfully request you give the City of Homestead full and fair consideration on the proposal detailed above. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Wolf on my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Curbelo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carlos Curbelo