The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER I and TIGER II Discretionary Grant programs, provide a unique opportunity for the U.S. Department of Transportation to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Congress dedicated $1.5 billion for TIGER I and $600 million for TIGER II to fund projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a region or a metropolitan area. TIGER’s highly competitive process, galvanized by tremendous applicant interest, allowed DOT to fund 51 innovative capital projects in TIGER I, and an additional 42 capital projects in TIGER II. Livability and Sustainability are at the heart of TIGER’s selection criteria, and DOT utilized the program’s competitive review process to choose projects that will improve energy efficiency and make significant investments in expanding transportation connections and choices for communities across the Nation.

Livability

The TIGER program’s broad, multi-modal scope enables DOT to fund projects that strengthen local and regional economies, support communities by expanding transportation choices and foster connections to places people work, play and live.

Livability projects improve economic competitiveness. TIGER funds will be used for a new 3.9 mile streetcar line in Tucson, AZ to connect neighborhoods with the city’s major employers and principle destinations. The streetcar will establish frequent and reliable transportation options for some of Tucson’s most transit-dependent communities, attract new investment to struggling areas and link those distressed communities with employment centers in downtown Tucson, the University of Arizona, two health centers and two retail centers. The TIGER investment will raise productivity and property values along the corridor and support access to transportation choices near existing communities.

Tucson’s Streetcar will connect distressed communities with employment opportunities and spur corridor development.

Providing new or better transportation connections for residents and commuters is critical to livability. The Philadelphia Area Pedestrian and Bicycle Network spans 128 miles connecting six counties around Philadelphia, PA and Southern New Jersey. TIGER funds will repair and improve 16 miles of the network on well-used commuter routes to downtown and in economically distressed neighborhoods in Philadelphia and Camden, NJ. Residents will enjoy less expensive, better connections to employment centers and improved transportation options better linking them to the region’s economic centers.

Night crews prepare Las Vegas’s Sahara Avenue for the Bus Rapid Transit project. Sahara BRT will provide connectivity for one of the heaviest traffic corridors in the city.
As national policy in the United States continues to encourage energy efficiency and security, and reduced reliance on motor fuels, DOT is focused on maintaining a strong, sustainable transportation system. The TIGER funds supporting California’s Green Trade Corridor Marine Highway project will improve energy efficiency and reduce our Nation’s dependence on oil while also strengthening the region’s economic competitiveness. The Green Trade Corridor creates a marine highway to deliver consumer goods and agricultural products via barge between the ports of Oakland, Stockton and West Sacramento. The marine highway will remove trucks from the congested road network in Northern and Central California and strengthen the import and export markets in three economically distressed areas. By relieving congestion the Green Trade Corridor reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants and will also reduce the wear and tear on the region’s highways.

Similarly, TIGER is investing in the Crescent Corridor Project, an ambitious public-private partnership to increase rail capacity and better allocate freight between trucks and rail on a major corridor stretching from the Gulf Coast to the Mid-Atlantic. DOT is partnering with several states and the Norfolk Southern Railroad and TIGER funds will be used to complete two intermodal facilities outside Birmingham, AL and Memphis, TN, critical components of the overall plan to make this corridor more efficient.

TIGER has also been able to help Kansas City with its ambitious Green Impact Zone plan. The Green Impact Zone joins livability and sustainability along the economically distressed Troost Street corridor in Kansas City, MO. The larger plan features a massive energy audit and home weatherization project along the corridor that will affect 2,500 homes. TIGER funds will develop a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line featuring bio-diesel buses and green bus shelters and improve sidewalk access to connect residents on the corridor with downtown Kansas City and other destinations. Other BRT routes will serve Kansas City and Overland Park, KS. The whole project will improve transportation choice and strengthen connectivity for three established neighborhoods across the region while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability

TIGER will provide funds to close critical gaps in the nearly 200 mile bicycle/pedestrian network serving Contra Costa and Alameda counties in California.