



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the I-75/Ft. Hamer Road Interchange in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Florida Department of Transportation, located at 11201 McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida, 33612.

The funding would be used for the planning, design, and construction of a new interchange at Fort Hamer Road and Interstate 75, including associated roadway improvements to provide a critical east-west connection between Manatee and Hillsborough Counties, a regional transportation infrastructure component of the Fort Hamer Road-I-75 Interchange Project in Manatee County, Florida.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the overall project includes planning and environmental review, final design and engineering, construction of the new I-75 interchange, and associated roadway improvements along Fort Hamer Road to accommodate increased traffic and ensure safe access to the interstate system. The interchange will provide a direct connection between Fort Hamer Road and I-75, creating the first interstate access point within an approximately 12-mile stretch between existing interchanges and significantly improving regional connectivity. Once completed, the full project will provide a critical east-west mobility corridor.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress