



Dear young engineers,

The city of Austin, TX has a growing population of commuters. It has seen a 9.2% population growth in just the past three years. This population growth has resulted in increased traffic issues for commuters especially travelling north and south over the Colorado River.

We are currently in the beginning stages of designing another bridge over the river to help with the flow of traffic. Our design department is reaching out to young designers and engineers like yourselves for help in designing the strongest bridge with the least amount of mass. The team whose bridge has the lowest ratio of weight to carrying capacity will win a \$5000 grant.

The requirements for the bridge design include the following specifications. The model should be made out of wood. The design cannot be a cable or suspension bridge. Finally, in order to keep construction costs low, the design will be judged on the ratio of weight of the bridge to the maximum weight that the bridge can support. The winning design will be built by the city of Austin in the next year.

Designs are due in four weeks, good luck and have fun,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lee Brown  
Chairman of Department of Transportation  
Austin, TX