

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2020

Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority's 2020 BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write today to express our support for the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) BUILD grant application to help fund the design and construction of complete street corridor improvements in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that it is critical that urban areas provide transportation corridors that are safe and adequate for a wide range of mobility options. The Fort Lauderdale DDA's grant proposal directly addresses this need by redesigning and rebuilding approximately 12 blocks of two important corridors in the Fort Lauderdale Downtown, allowing for safe movement of pedestrians, bicycles, mass transit and automobiles.

These identified corridors will connect residents with office and commercial work force spaces as well as retail, parks and entertainment destinations. A principal goal is to connect to Holiday Park, the City of Fort Lauderdale's premier multi-purpose sports and fitness park. This plan also supports significant investment in these corridors including the new \$40 Million Florida Panthers Youth Ice Skating and Hockey Facility, and \$20 Million Parker Playhouse renovation.

Although economic conditions are straining local governments, the City of Fort Lauderdale and Fort Lauderdale DDA have pledged 20% of the project costs to demonstrate the need for these improvements. We commend the Fort Lauderdale DDA and the City of Fort Lauderdale for planning for a sustainable and safer community and appreciate your consideration of funding for this project that will have significant impact on our community.

Thank you for your attention to our letter of support for the application from the Fort Lauderdale DDA. Consistent with the ethics requirement of the U.S. House of Representative, we would appreciate your full and fair consideration of this application. Please keep us informed as the process progresses.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress