



May 2, 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:

On behalf of the Downtown Coalition, I am pleased to submit this letter supporting Fort Lauderdale DDA's 2020 BUILD application to design and construct complete street improvements in Downtown Fort Lauderdale's Flagler Village neighborhood.

The Downtown Coalition's mission is to advocate for and implement projects, programs, and policies that further the success of Downtown Fort Lauderdale to make it an exceptional place to live, work, and visit. The Coalition consists of 23 different stakeholder organizations ranging from cultural institutions, economic development agencies, higher education institutions, transportation and mobility operators, and downtown specific groups focused on land use and development, marine facilities, business development, and public parks and the public realm.

Downtown Fort Lauderdale is strategically located in the center of a growing region of 6 million people. How we move around is an issue that impacts all of us. We have made major strides with the advancement of Brightline connecting the Tri-County and we must continue to build on this momentum through investment in our streets and public spaces. The DDA's proposal to redesign and rebuild NE 4th and 8th Streets will help provide much needed safety and overall improvement to the accessibility and comfort to users in the area providing viable alternatives to move people around in healthy ways.

The Downtown Coalition is happy to support this important initiative. I hope you will give serious consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jim Ellis
Founder

Downtown Coalition Members

Brightline | Broward Center for the Performing Arts | Broward College | Broward Workshop
Damn Good Hospitality (DGH) | Downtown Development Authority (DDA) | Downtown Himmarshee Village Assoc.
FATVillage | Flagler Village Improvement Assoc. | Florida Atlantic University | Fort Lauderdale TMA
Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club | GFL Alliance | GFL Chamber of Commerce | Historic Stranahan House & Museum
History Fort Lauderdale (FLHS) | Marine Industries Association (MIASF) | MASS District | Museum of Discovery & Science (MODS)
| NSU Museum of Art | Property Owners of Las Olas (POLO) | Riverwalk Activities | Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale | Riverwalk A&E District | The Las Olas Company | Water Taxi