

May 7, 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:

I am writing to express my support for the Fort Lauderdale DDA's BUILD grant application to help fund the design and construction of complete street improvements in Downtown's Flagler Village neighborhood.

Merrimac Ventures is a Real Estate investment and development firm located in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Our primary focus is on prime resort and mixed-use development, but we also have extensive investments in multi-family residential, condominiums, retail and office. One of these includes a new, 218-key hotel combining the Hilton brands of Tru and Home2 Suites. The Hotel project is currently under construction along NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street located within the Downtown Mobility Hub area at the western terminus of the proposed grant application project.

NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street is a critical east/west street that needs to accommodate for all travel modes. It is one of two direct access corridors to the Brightline commuter rail station connecting to major retail establishments and three large neighborhoods - Flagler Village, Progresso Village, and Victoria Park.

Even with significant private sector investment to the public realm, we still are not finished and there are major safety and connectivity gaps. I urge you to fully support the DDA's grant application request so the street network can be fully connected for all modes of travel.

Sincerely,

Dev Motwani

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