



May 12, 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:

This letter serves to demonstrate the City of Fort Lauderdale's commitment to partner with the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) on the NE 4th Street and NE 8th Street complete streets improvement projects, as outlined in the DDA's 2020 BUILD grant application package.

The City and the DDA have a proven track record of partnering on a variety of projects including bringing a new Federal Courthouse to Downtown Fort Lauderdale, building the final extension of our iconic Riverwalk along the New River, rebuilding streets and public spaces, maintaining and improving parks and open space, completing transportation studies and other plans and policy initiatives that drive success in the urban core.

The City owns the public rights-of-way along NE 4th and 8th Streets and will delegate authority to the DDA to lead the implementation of both projects from design to completion just as we have done in the past on similar projects. Having the DDA as a partner to focus on downtown projects like this will allow the City to focus on tackling other major initiatives like completing over \$600 million of underground utility infrastructure upgrades and \$200 million of parks and open space improvements over the next five to ten years.

Now more than ever, local governments must leverage outside funding to make projects happen. Despite the uncertainty of impacts to our community and economy as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, I have pledged my commitment to provide up to \$2.5 million towards the local match on this grant. I hope you will strongly consider approving this application request.

Sincerely,

Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM
City Manager

Office of the City Manager

100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Telephone (954) 828-5013, Fax (954) 828-5599

www.fortlauderdale.gov

