



**Dean J. Trantalis**  
Mayor

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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:

I am happy to partner with the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority on the grant application to design and construct street improvements along NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street and NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. The City of Fort Lauderdale and the DDA have a long history of working together to address issues impacting the urban core and surrounding neighborhoods.

When I became Mayor in 2018, one of my pledges was to improve transportation and infrastructure in Fort Lauderdale for current and future generations of residents, workers, and visitors. Prior to that, as a district commissioner for an area of Fort Lauderdale that included the Flagler Village neighborhood where the BUILD projects are planned, I saw firsthand how complete street projects could improve the safety and mobility in a community. Those positive changes were largely the result of improvements made by private real estate developers who upgraded streets and sidewalks next to their newly constructed buildings.

But for the assistance of this BUILD grant, the gaps in the street network in Flagler Village will remain until future waves of private investment occur. In these uncertain times, there is no better opportunity to leverage federal grant funding to stimulate new private investment while creating a pedestrian-friendly multi-modal community and improving safety.

I hope you will strongly consider approving this application request to enhance the quality of life, promote sustainability, and improve connectivity and access for all in Fort Lauderdale.

Sincerely,

Dean J. Trantalis  
Mayor