



April 29, 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 so happy to write this letter of support for the Fort Lauderdale DDA's BUILD grant application to help fund the design and construction of complete street improvements in the Flagler Village neighborhood of Downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Mockingbird Trail was conceived in 2014 through a grassroots effort led by Flagler Village community members to create the State's first cultural arts trail. It was envisioned to create a civic identity, unify downtown neighborhoods, and improve quality of life through the development of an eight-mile landscaped pedestrian and bike route linking Fort Lauderdale's abundant recreational, health, business, government, educational, and cultural offerings.

The Friends of Mockingbird Trail, a non-profit group, was later formed to advance the mission of the trail through advocacy and fundraising. Over the past year, the Friends of Mockingbird Trail has been working with the LauderTrail Working Group, an appointed advisory group to the City Commission tasked with development of a city-wide trail program. Together, we are excited about the possibility of implementing trails and transforming our streets and public spaces. This application proposal, if awarded, will allow us to put the first shovels in the ground to start building the trail. NE 4th and 8th Streets are critical connectors in the plan and can serve to lay the foundation as we continue to build it out.

We are thrilled to work with the DDA and the City to redesign and rebuild NE 4th and 8th Streets as we make the trail a reality!

I urge you to strongly consider the DDA's application request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Frank".

Terry Frank
President
The Friends of Mockingbird Trail