

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003-3660

Dear Secretary Chao,

I have been alerted that the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is submitting an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grant Program.

I write to offer my support for WVDOH, the communities assisted by the proposed project, and this application. I understand that, if approved, funding provided by this opportunity would be utilized for bridge repairs and renovations along the I-79 corridor. Specifically, this project would involve a total of 20 bridges, most being more than fifty years old and in critical or poor condition, across Monongalia, Marion, and Harrison counties.

The northcentral region of the state is critical to the state's economy, as it is home to our state's flagship university, West Virginia University, and to a number of aviation, energy, and high-tech industry related companies and federal agency offices. The I-79 corridor plays an incredibly important role in maintaining and growing the economic activity of the region and the state.

I appreciate your noting my strong support and interest in this application and providing it a full and fair review. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, I know how important continued investments in infrastructure are to my state's and our nation's transportation system and how vital the BUILD program is to accomplishing that. Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III