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AND PENSIONS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express support for the City of Norfolk, an applicant for funding through the Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. The city seeks funding to make necessary improvements to the transportation and roadway network in the St. Paul's Area of the city.

St. Paul's Area has a family poverty rate of 70 percent with high levels of unemployment. This project will restructure and upgrade almost two miles of outdated streets in an area containing three Opportunity Zones. Further, this project will correct decades of physical isolation caused by the obsolete street grid while providing direct connectivity to the heart of Norfolk. New sidewalks, bike lanes, and dedicated bus-only lanes will provide seamless access to the region's primary public transportation along with access to jobs, education, housing, and essential services such as health care. The new roadway network will also improve east-west movement across St. Paul's Boulevard and eliminate tidal flooding through improvements to the city's storm water system.

In Fiscal Year 2019, this application received favorable marks and was one of the Department of Transportation's highly recommended projects. Accordingly, please give full and fair evaluation to this project, which will benefit the transformation and revitalization of a key neighborhood in Norfolk, Virginia, a city that serves as a national economic hub and critical military asset.

Should you have any questions, contact my Grants Coordinator,
Gwen_Mason@kaine.senate.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine