

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

May 13, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write today in support of the City of Norfolk, VA's grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. If approved, the City will utilize the funding to make necessary improvements to the transportation and roadway network in the St. Paul's Area of Norfolk, Virginia.

The St. Paul's Area has three large and obsolete public housing complexes that have been in distress and decline for decades, with current family poverty rates at 70 percent and high unemployment percentages. The City of Norfolk plans to restructure and upgrade almost two miles of obsolete streets in an area comprising of three opportunity zones. The proposed project will correct decades of physical isolation to this area due to the existing street grid and provide direct connectivity to the heart of Norfolk by reconstructing road corridors with sidewalks, bike lanes and dedicated bus only lanes. The improvements will provide seamless access to the region's primary public transportation transfer center, jobs, education, housing and essential services such as health care. The new roadway network will also improve east - west movements across St. Paul's Boulevard and eliminate tidal flooding through improvements to the storm-water system.

Redeveloping the transportation network for this community is necessary to support more than \$300 million in both public and private funding through new market rate housing, affordable and replacement housing, transit-oriented development, and other improvements to its infrastructure. If funded, the BUILD grant would enable the City to capitalize on these improvements through continued robust partnerships and leveraged funding.

I ask that you give this proposal every appropriate consideration. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Bianca Casper at 804-775-2314 or bianca_casper@warner.senate.gov.

Thank you for your service on behalf of my constituents.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

MRW/bc

180 WEST MAIN STREET
ABINGDON, VA 24210
PHONE: (276) 628-8158

101 WEST MAIN STREET
SUITE 7771
NORFOLK, VA 23510
PHONE: (757) 441-3079

919 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 630
RICHMOND, VA 23219
PHONE: (804) 775-2314

110 KIRK AVENUE, SW
ROANOKE, VA 24011
PHONE: (540) 857-2676

8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE
SUITE 200
VIENNA, VA 22182
PHONE: (703) 442-0670