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John R. Cooper
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

July 23, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

**RE: Project Support for the City of Gulf Shores' 2018 BUILD
Grant Application Waterway Village Multimodal Access**

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) fully supports the City of Gulf Shore's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program for the "Waterway Village Multimodal Access Project". This commitment by the State of Alabama underscores the significance of the regional impacts it will certainly have on the project.

The Gulf Shores Waterway Village Multimodal Access Project will construct much needed vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation infrastructure connecting two major arterial routes in Baldwin County, Alabama. In doing so, this proposed project will aid in alleviating traffic congestion and will provide an additional hurricane evacuation route. The proposed project includes the construction of a new pedestrian bridge, improvements to a major traffic corridor, enhancements to the Jack Edwards Airport and Business Park, and complete streets throughout the Waterway Village District.

The project will promote economic development, private investment, and job creation throughout the Gulf Shores area. Public safety, traffic conditions, and regional connectivity will also improve significantly. These improvements will promote community resilience by creating a walkable, mixed-use neighborhood and business center located away from the existing beach front economic center. The overall impact of the project will be to improve the sustainability of the region, the quality of life for residents and visitors to Gulf Shores.

It is anticipated that this project will greatly improve traffic conditions in the area. ALDOT is excited to be a partner with the City of Gulf Shores in this endeavor. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information to you regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Vincent E. Calametti, P.E,
Southwest Region Engineer

VEC/SAS/sas
c: File