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February 13, 2020

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

Subject: Support of Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)  
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Application for the Santa Barbara U.S.  
101 Multimodal Corridor – Segments 4D & 4E

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing in support of SBCAG's application to the United States Department of Transportation's BUILD competitive grant program for the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project.

The Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project is nearing completion and helps to protect the economic viability, quality of life and environmental sustainability of the entire region by providing multiple transportation benefits that expand capacity and reduce congestion on U.S. 101, improve interregional goods movement, increase safety and multimodal access, and create access to jobs.

U.S. 101 is the only major highway connecting the central coast to both northern and southern California. The sheer volume of traffic that uses the U.S. 101 has outgrown the capacity from the Ventura County line through Montecito where there are only two lanes of traffic. The high cost of living exacerbates congestion along U.S. 101 as more commuters travel from Ventura County into Santa Barbara County. With only two lanes along this corridor, the U.S. 101 simply does not have the capacity to hold all the commute traffic. Completion of widening the U.S. 101 with the addition of a peak-hour carpool lane will allow traffic to flow more freely through the corridor in the future.

Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project components include:

- Completion of a critical lifeline arterial, U.S. 101 by adding a peak-hour carpool lane with a total of three lanes in each direction. The significance of the U.S. 101 arterial is highlighted by the California Department of Transportation as the only alternative to Interstate 5 freeway when it closes during dangerous winter weather events that occur along the grapevine in Kern County. The U.S. 101 corridor's significance was further highlighted after its nearly two-week closure following the tragic Montecito debris flow event in January 2018.
- Increase of transportation opportunities for commuters and multimodal access with a peak-hour carpool lane, commuter rail service, intercity transit service, coastal trail enhancements, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- A strong partnership between SBCAG, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Transportation Commission, Cities of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, and the County of Santa Barbara.
- Innovative project delivery method utilizing construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC), which will minimize risks and unknown costs going into construction and extend that strong partnership among the agencies to our contracting partner Granite Construction.

Collectively, non-federal sources represent nearly 80% of the total project cost, demonstrating a strong local contribution. While there has been significant local and state investment in the project to date, partnership with the federal government is critical to help complete the final phase of a more than 15-year effort.

We firmly believe the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project makes a significant impact to the State of California and the nation. For these reasons, I strongly support SBCAG's BUILD grant application and urge your full consideration of this significant project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristen Miller".

Kristen Miller  
President/CEO