

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

February 12, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

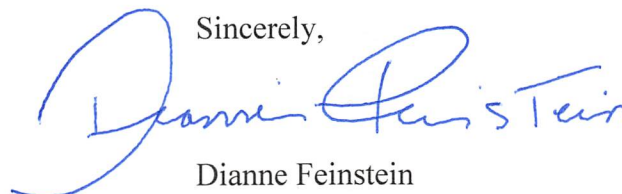
I write in support of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' application for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, administered by the Department of Transportation.

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is requesting funding for Segments 4D and 4E of the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Multimodal Corridor project. The U.S. 101 is the only major highway connecting the Central Coast to both Northern and Southern California. Due to the high volume of commuters regularly traveling from Ventura County into Santa Barbara County, the traffic from the U.S. 101's Ventura County line through Montecito has outgrown the highway's capacity. This project will complete the widening of the U.S. 101 by adding a peak-hour carpool lane with a total of three lanes in each direction.

The completed U.S. 101 arterial will reduce the corridor's traffic congestion and operate as the only alternative to the Interstate 5 freeway during weather-related closures. The proposed project will also help improve the region's economic competitiveness, transportation safety, quality of life and environmental sustainability. Local and state investment in the project is significant and accounts for nearly 80% of the total project cost; however, partnership with the federal government is considered to be critical to completing the final phase of the more than 15-year effort.

I urge you to give the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' application every consideration. Please keep my office informed of the status of this request, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Los Angeles office at (310) 914-7300.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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