



Office for the President | **Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D.**

May 11, 2026

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

RE: FY2026 SS4A Grant Application – *Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation*

Dear Secretary Duffy:

As President of Blue Ridge Community College, I am pleased to support the City of Hendersonville's SS4A grant application, *Safe Streets for Hendersonville: 7th Avenue Safety Implementation*, a collaborative effort with the French Broad River MPO and NCDOT.

The 7th Avenue Safety Implementation project will improve safety for all roadway users along a historic downtown corridor; provide a comfortable and welcoming public realm for families, individuals, and visitors; act as a catalyst for tourism and economic development; improve resilience to flooding events; and create improved connections to multiple major regional trails.

By supporting this effort, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with the Trump Administration's objectives, including:

- Creating a safer local transportation system,
- Increasing quality of life for local families and individuals, and visitors,
- Providing improved accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while maintaining vehicular roadway capacity,
- Creating jobs and supporting local businesses, increasing tourism, and promoting economic opportunity.

This project will act as an engine—improving safety, integrating transportation and recreation options, and enhancing economic development for small town Hendersonville.

Thank you for your consideration of this application for SS4A Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura B. Leatherwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D.
President

Henderson County Campus
180 West Campus Drive
Flat Rock, NC 28731
828.694.1700

Transylvania County Campus
45 Oak Park Drive
Brevard, NC 28712
828.883.2520

Health Sciences Center
805 6th Avenue West
Hendersonville, NC 28739
828.694.1700