



Office of the President | [Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D](#)

January 29, 2026

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

RE: FY2026 BUILD Grant Application – Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business

Dear Secretary Duffy:

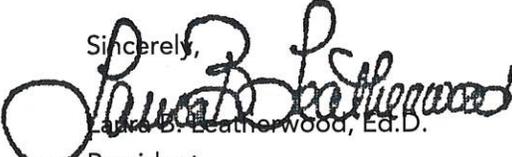
As President of Blue Ridge Community College, I am pleased to offer my support for the BUILD grant application, "Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business," a collaborative effort led by the City of Hendersonville, Henderson County, NCDOT, and other local partners.

The Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project will enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety along two historic corridors, create a more welcoming public realm, reconnect underserved neighborhoods with downtown, support tourism and economic growth, strengthen resilience to flooding, and improve access to several major regional trails.

By supporting this effort, USDOT can highlight a project that closely aligns with the Trump Administration's priorities: enhancing transportation safety; improving quality of life for residents and visitors; expanding accessible, affordable, and connected mobility options while preserving roadway capacity; and creating local jobs, supporting businesses, boosting tourism, and promoting economic opportunity.

In summary, the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project will serve as a catalyst for healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and well-integrated transportation and recreation options—driving economic transformation across the region.

Thank you for considering this application for BUILD Program funding.

Sincerely,  
  
Laura B. Leatherwood, Ed.D.  
President

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