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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,

On behalf of **Carolina Village**, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the City of Hendersonville's FY2026 BUILD Grant application titled "**Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business.**"

Carolina Village is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, also referred to as "Lifeplan Community", recognizes the importance of this updated project scope and its potential to transform Hendersonville's historic downtown corridors into safer, more accessible, and more vibrant community spaces. The proposed modernization will significantly improve safety and comfort for pedestrians and bicyclists, enhance accessibility for residents of all ages and abilities, and strengthen connections between underserved neighborhoods and downtown destinations.

As an organization committed to community vitality, economic opportunity, and quality of life, Carolina Village strongly supports the project's goals of fostering local business growth, increasing tourism, and creating an inviting public realm that benefits residents, visitors, and entrepreneurs alike. The project's focus on resilient infrastructure, flood mitigation, and improved connectivity to regional trail networks further reinforces its long-term value to the Hendersonville community and the broader region.

Investment in the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project aligns closely with federal priorities by promoting transportation safety, supporting economic development, maintaining roadway functionality, and enhancing overall quality of life. This project represents a strategic and forward-looking investment that will serve as a catalyst for sustainable growth and community well-being.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and for your continued commitment to supporting transformative local infrastructure projects. Carolina Village is proud to support the City of Hendersonville in this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Parries", with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back under the name.

Kevin Parries
President and CEO
Carolina Village, INC.