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# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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 the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), I am writing to express our strong support for the FY2026 BUILD grant application titled *“Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business.”* This project is the result of a collaborative effort among the City of Hendersonville, Henderson County, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and other regional and local partners.

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for this region, the FBRMPO is responsible for coordinating transportation planning and investment decisions that improve safety, mobility, and economic vitality across Western North Carolina. The Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project directly advances these goals by improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists along two historic downtown corridors; enhancing the public realm for residents, families, and visitors; reconnecting neighborhoods to downtown destinations

This project represents a balanced, context-sensitive investment that maintains necessary vehicular capacity while providing safer and more accessible transportation options for all users. In doing so, it supports economic development by strengthening Hendersonville’s downtown as a hub for local businesses, tourism, and regional recreation.

Support for this project would allow the U.S. Department of Transportation to highlight an investment that aligns closely with the Administration’s objectives, including:

- Improving safety and reliability within the local transportation system;

- Enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors;
- Expanding accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while preserving roadway functionality; and
- Supporting job creation, local businesses, and long-term economic opportunity.

In summary, the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project will serve as a catalyst for safer streets, economic vitality, and resilient infrastructure in Western North Carolina. The French Broad River MPO strongly encourages USDOT's favorable consideration of this BUILD grant application.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request for BUILD Program funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tristan Winkler', written in a cursive style.

Tristan Winkler  
Director  
French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization