



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

January 29, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Duffy:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Downtown Hendersonville, a nonprofit organization that collaborates with the City of Hendersonville and Downtown Advisory Board to preserve and enhance the vitality of Downtown by initiating policies, investing in capital improvements, and placemaking to curate a quality experience. The Friends of Downtown are in full support for the City of Hendersonville's BUILD Grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation. We believe this project represents a critical opportunity to promote small-town tourism and economic development, improve resilience to flooding events, enhance the quality of life in our region by providing welcome public space for families, individuals and visitors, and support connections to regional trails.

The proposed project aligns closely with the BUILD program objectives, and can serve as a quality project that will support the City's efforts to:

- Create a safer local transportation system,
- Improve quality of life for local families and individuals, and visitors,
- Provide improved accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while maintaining vehicular roadway capacity,
- And create local jobs and support tourism, that will promote economic opportunities and support local businesses.

In summary, the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization will be a transformational project that supports healthy, resilient and integrated transportation and recreation options that will support economic opportunity in the region.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Jamie Carpenter
Downtown Manager

160 6th Avenue E
Hendersonville, NC 28782
e-mail: info@downtownhendersonville.org

Phone: 828.233.3216
www.downtownhendersonville.org