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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3311

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
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,

I write to express my strong support for the BUILD grant application titled “*Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business.*” This project reflects a robust partnership between the City of Hendersonville, Henderson County, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and a broad coalition of local stakeholders committed to improving mobility, safety, and economic vitality in Western North Carolina.

The Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project will deliver meaningful improvements to two historic downtown corridors by enhancing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, creating a more welcoming public realm for families, residents, and visitors, and strengthening connections between underserved neighborhoods and the downtown core. The project will also improve resilience to flooding events, expand connectivity to major regional trail networks, and serve as a catalyst for tourism, small business growth, and long-term economic development.

This investment aligns closely with the Administration’s transportation and infrastructure priorities, including improving transportation safety, enhancing quality of life for local communities, expanding accessible and connected transportation options while maintaining roadway capacity, and supporting job creation and economic opportunity. Importantly, the project demonstrates how strategic federal investment can empower local communities to pursue growth that is both economically productive and community centered.

In sum, the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project represents a high-impact, locally driven initiative that will strengthen regional connectivity, support local businesses, and position Hendersonville for continued success. I strongly encourage the Department of Transportation to give this application favorable consideration.

Thank you for your leadership and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Edwards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress