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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

May 5, 2020

Secretary Elaine Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the Department of Transportation reviews applications for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, I ask that you consider the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments' (TMACOG) funding request for \$25 million. The grant will allow TMACOG to continue construction of the Glass City Riverwalk, a project to transform the downtown Toledo waterfront into a regional attraction.

The Glass City Riverwalk project will create a safe, wide trail on both sides of the Maumee River and provide access to riverfront amenities such as boat docks, natural areas, and an innovative kayak share program. The multi-use path will encourage physical activity and support mental health for residents with a diversity of programming for every season. The trails will directly connect to neighborhoods, downtown businesses, hotels, restaurants, and existing parks, stimulating economic growth in the Toledo metropolitan area. Parking lots and public transit near the trail will ensure accessibility for residents, downtown employees, and visitors. Further, The Glass City Riverwalk integrates urban ecological features to improve water quality, support riparian habitats, and manage storm water. The continued investment in infrastructure is critical to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of this region of Ohio.

TMACOG is collaborating with the City of Toledo, Metroparks Toledo, ConneCToledo, University of Toledo, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Destination Toledo and the Greater Toledo Community Foundation to complete the Glass City Riverwalk. Proper funding is essential for the ongoing revitalization of downtown Toledo.

I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments' funding request. Please keep my office informed on the status of the application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator