

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in regards to the West Virginia Division of Highways' (WVDOH) application for funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. Funding will support the widening of Interstate 64 in Putnam County, West Virginia, which promises to improve traffic flow on one of the most economically important corridors in the state.

Modern, dependable surface transportation infrastructure is crucial to America's economic success. States like West Virginia depend on improvements to roads – whether they be interstates or collectors – in order to promote opportunity and improve safety. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works' Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am working with my colleagues to ensure we provide continued funding to the states to advance these critical infrastructure projects, and I am proud that West Virginians are stepping up to do their part, having approved a \$1.6 billion road bond referendum in 2017.

The I-64 corridor between the cities of Huntington and Charleston is home to a significant number of West Virginians, many of whom use the road daily to commute to and from work. It is also one of the primary commercial areas in West Virginia, with several hundred businesses located along its route and within the two cities' metropolitan areas.

As traffic has increased along the corridor, numerous projects have been undertaken to address bottlenecks that inhibit flow and contribute to accidents. This proposal on the part of WVDOH promises to utilize BUILD funding – in conjunction with funding through the sale of general obligation bonds approved via the referendum – to continue those efforts by widening 3.79 miles of I-64 between the US 35 interchange and the Nitro interchange in Putnam County, West Virginia.

West Virginians know the importance of continued investments in our state and nation's infrastructure, as evidenced by the success of the bond referendum. Working together with the Trump Administration, we can responsibly advance projects that promote economic growth and revitalize America. I hope you will give WVDOH's application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator