

The Underline - Segment 6

BUILD Grant FY 2018

Appendix S

Letters of Support



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding – The Underline

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for the Underline.

The construction of the Underline will significantly impact connectivity, creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, schools (including the University of Miami, commercial centers, two major hospitals, key community destinations, and 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk). The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that will enhance the safety of our residents.

I am a believer in the Underline's vision and dedication to improve the quality of life of our residents by focusing on transportation and connectivity, resiliency, and job creation. In 2016, Miami-Dade County (the County) approved the City of Miami's commitment of up to \$50 million in park impact fees collected from development activity within 1,000 feet of the Underline to support construction costs; and in 2017, the County accepted the City of Coral Gables' commitment for \$15 million. With support from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County can achieve major progress in transportation, safety, and economic vitality. I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for the Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this letter and DTPW's request for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Alice N. Bravo, P.E., Director, Department of Transportation and Public Works
Aileen Boucle, Executive Director, Transportation and Planning Organization
Meg Daly, Founder and President, Friends of the Underline

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

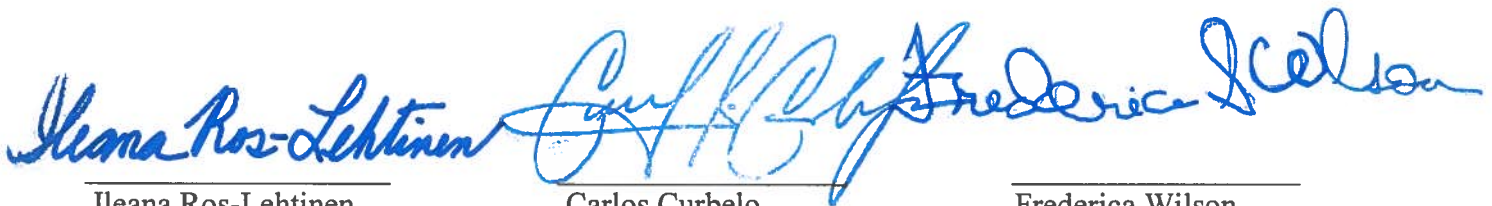
We are writing to express our support for Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program, which would help fund Segment 6 of The Underline.

The Underline is a 10-mile mobility corridor in Miami-Dade County. The Department of Transportation and Public Works has specified that the requested BUILD Grant funds will go towards completing Segment 6 of this project. This portion is of particular significance because of its connection to the University Metrorail station. This high traffic area provides access to the University of Miami and the City of Coral Gables.

According to Miami-Dade County, once completed, The Underline will provide safe alternative methods of transportation for countless residents and revitalize an underutilized space at the center of Miami. With its multimodal use and linkage to already existing trails, The Underline is of vital regional importance.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, we ask that you give this application full and fair consideration. The Underline will transform and produce lasting benefits for South Florida by fostering a greater sense of community, providing greater mobility, stimulating economic growth, and enhancing quality of life for all of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

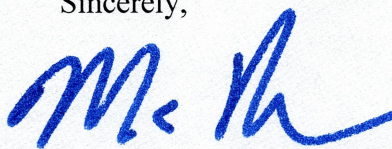
Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of Miami-Dade County's application as it seeks \$16,397,600 from the Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for the Underline – Segment 6 project (Segment 6).

The Segment 6 project, which covers 1.98 miles of the proposed 10-mile project, seeks to repurpose unused industrial space under a heavily used regional rail transit system in the City of Coral Gables. If awarded this grant, the funds would be used to connect this portion of the Underline with the University Metrorail Station. This particular corridor has an assorted range of users, including students and faculty from the University of Miami as well as residents and tourists from the City of Coral Gables. This project would enhance safety and its connections to the University Metrorail Station, redesign six intersections, and add a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the Coral Gables Waterway. When completed, residents and tourists will have an alternative mode of transportation within the city.

I applaud Miami-Dade County's efforts to improve its transit facilities and believe the people of Miami-Dade County would greatly benefit from this grant. I request your full and fair consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

RE: The Underline/Miami-Dade County - DOT - BUILD

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of The Underline, sponsored by Miami-Dade County and their efforts to obtain a BUILD grant. The goal of their proposed project is to construct a 10-mile multi-modal corridor directly connected to existing transit. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Led with a public/private partnership between Miami-Dade County Transportation & Public Works and Friends of The Underline, this project is federalized and shovel-ready with NEPA compliance satisfied. If funded, this 10-mile corridor will begin construction in 2019 and in addition to constructing a multi-modal corridor will also restore native trees, enhance greenscape in the corridor and add 20 butterfly gardens. Additionally, this project will create more than 1,000 jobs during construction, 400+ permanent jobs during operations of the corridor and positively affect the overall economy of the region in a number of ways.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

BN/jm

CC: Ms. Jennifer Rojo Suarez, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson



The Florida Senate
State Senator René García
36th District

Please reply to:

District Office:

1490 West 68 Street
Suite # 201
Hialeah, FL 33014
Phone# (305) 364-3100

July 10, 2018

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

**Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding**

Dear Secretary Chao:


Over the last several years, I have championed the Underline's legislative initiatives and remain committed to building its legacy. I strongly support Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

After vetting this projects qualifications and overall transformative community impact, the Legislature appropriated \$8.5 million in direct funds and an additional \$4 million in grants. In less than 4 years, the project has secured over 60% in funding commitments from private, local, State and Federal sources.

Led with a public/private partnership between Miami-Dade County Transportation & Public Works, and Friends of The Underline, The 10-mile Underline will be Miami-Dade County's first multi-modal corridor directly connected to existing transit. Construction of pedestrian and bike trails will encourage our community to walk, bike and directly connect to public transit to alleviate traffic congestion and improve overall safety. The Underline's events and curriculum will draw our residents to visit art in public spaces, draw tourists to our trail, and increase physical activity of residents living within 2/3 of a mile.

The Legislature has unanimously supported our transformative 10-mile transportation, recreational and public space initiative. I ask that the U.S. Department of Transportation consider approving funding for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,


State Senator René García
District 36

Committees: Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services, Chairman, Appropriations, Children, Families, and Elderly Affairs, Health Policy, Agriculture, Education Pre-K – 12, Joint Legislative Budget Committee and Communications, Energy and Public Utilities.



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Nicholas X. Duran

District 112

District Office:

2100 Coral Way, Suite 704
Miami, FL 33145
(305) 860-7119
(305) 860-7121 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:

1102 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5112

Email: Nicholas.duran@myfloridahouse.gov

July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

As State Representative of the 112th district and member of the Miami Dade Legislative Delegation, I strongly support Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

The State Legislature has successfully invested over \$8 million and funded an additional \$4 million in grant money to the Underline. This project enjoys unanimous, bi-partisan political support in both the House and Senate. In less than 4 years, the project has secured over 60% in funding commitments from private, local, state and federal sources.

The Underline will become a valuable amenity for the county and surrounding neighborhoods, especially in the 112th district, creating \$300-\$485 million in incremental assessed value for property owners. When completed, The Underline will serve over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk and will provide access to public transportation to one university, 24 schools, two hospitals, three urgent care facilities, four major malls and over 11,000 businesses.

We must continue to support projects that relieve traffic congestion, increase connectivity and promote health and wellness. I strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicholas X. Duran".

Nicholas X. Duran
State Representative | District 112

Committees: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Health Innovation Subcommittee, Commerce Committee, Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Daniel A. Perez

District 116

District Office:
7901 S.W. 24th Street
Miami, FL 33155
(305) 442-6800

Tallahassee Office:
1101 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5116

Email: Daniel.Perez@myfloridahouse.gov

July 10, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

State Representative Daniel A. Perez fully supports Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

The Underline will create more than 1,000 jobs during construction and 400 + permanent jobs during operations of the corridor. The dedicated off-road facility will improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety in one of the most dangerous counties to walk and bike in the US, which encourages active transportation and a healthier lifestyle. The land is wholly-owned by Miami-Dade County. All funding will be directed to construction. Our new linear park will become a world-class destination while providing income for families, increased connectivity between neighborhoods, and stability for pedestrians.

I strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Perez".

Daniel A. Perez
State Representative, District 116

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office; Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works; Friends of The Underline, Inc.



ESTEBAN BOVO, JR.
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 9, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding – The Underline

Dear Secretary Chao:

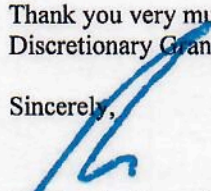
I am pleased to submit this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline.

The construction of the Underline will significantly impact connectivity creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, schools (including the University of Miami), commercial centers, two major hospitals, key community destinations impacting thousands of transit users and over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk. The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that, put simply, will save lives.

I am a believer in The Underline's vision and its ability to elevate the quality of life of residents by focusing on transportation and connectivity, resiliency, and job creation. In 2016, the City of Miami Commission approved a significant commitment of up to \$50 million in park impact fees collected from development activity within 1000 feet of The Underline to support construction costs and The City of Coral Gables Commission approved a commitment for \$15 million. With support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County can further its progress in the areas of transportation, safety, and economic vitality. I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Thank you very much for your considerations of this letter and DTPW's request for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding.

Sincerely,


Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. Chairman
Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners

cc:
Miami-Dade Transportation and Planning Organization
Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.

THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES



The City Beautiful

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL 405 BILTMORE WAY
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134

July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding

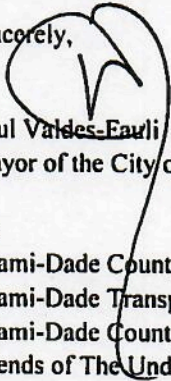
Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Coral Gables, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.

The City of Coral Gables is one of 34 municipalities within Miami-Dade County. Our community consistently ranks among the most dangerous to walk and bike in the United States. The construction of The Underline will significantly impact connectivity creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, schools (including the University of Miami, commercial centers, 2 major hospitals, key community destinations and over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk). The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that, put simply, will save lives.

The City of Coral Gables is more than a believer in The Underline's vision and is dedicated to elevating the quality of life of its residents by focusing on transportation and connectivity, resiliency, and job creation. In 2017, the City of Coral Gables Commission approved a significant commitment of up to \$15 million in park and mobility impact fees collected from development activity within 1000 feet of The Underline to support construction costs. By way of our up-to-\$15 million commitment to The Underline, we have bought in as a strategic investor. With support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the City of Coral Gables can achieve major progress in transportation, safety, and economic vitality. We strongly urge U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,


Raul Valdes-Fauli
Mayor of the City of Coral Gables

cc:
Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami-Dade Transportation and Planning Organization
Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.

THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES



OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONER

CITY HALL 405 BILTMORE WAY
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134

July 6, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Coral Gables, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.

The City of Coral Gables is one of 34 municipalities within Miami-Dade County. Our community consistently ranks among the most dangerous to walk and bike in the United States. The construction of The Underline will significantly impact connectivity creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, schools (including the University of Miami, commercial centers, 2 major hospitals, key community destinations and over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk). The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that, put simply, will save lives.

The City of Coral Gables is more than a believer in The Underline's vision and is dedicated to elevating the quality of life of its residents by focusing on transportation and connectivity, resiliency, and job creation. In 2017, the City of Coral Gables Commission approved a significant commitment of up to \$15 million in park and mobility impact fees collected from development activity within 1000 feet of The Underline to support construction costs. By way of our up-to-\$15 million commitment to The Underline, we have bought in as a strategic investor. With support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the City of Coral Gables can achieve major progress in transportation, safety, and economic vitality. We strongly urge U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,



Vince Lago

City of Coral Gables Commissioner

cc: Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami-Dade Transportation and Planning Organization
Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.

City of Miami, Florida



FRANCIS SUAREZ
MAYOR

3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133
(305) 250-5300
FAX (305) 854-4001

June 29, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of Miami, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.

The City of Miami, which is one of 34 municipalities within Miami-Dade County, consistently ranks among the most dangerous cities to walk and bike in the United States. The construction of The Underline will significantly impact connectivity, creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, and schools including the University of Miami, commercial centers, two major hospitals, key community destinations, and over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk. The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that will help save lives.

The City of Miami is a strong believer in The Underline's vision and is dedicated to elevating the quality of life of its residents by focusing on transportation and connectivity, resiliency, and job creation. In 2016, the City of Miami Commission approved up to \$50 million in park impact fees collected from development activity within 1000 feet of The Underline to support construction costs. By way of our up-to-\$50 million commitment to The Underline, we have bought in as a strategic investor.

With the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the City of Miami can achieve major progress in transportation, safety, and economic vitality. I encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to look favorably upon the application for the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program to help us better serve our residents and enhance their quality of life.

Sincerely,

Francis Suarez
Mayor
City of Miami

cc:

Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami-Dade Transportation and Planning Organization
Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works



Office of the Mayor

28 June 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City of South Miami, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.

The City of South Miami is one of 34 municipalities within Miami-Dade County. Our community consistently ranks among the most dangerous to walk and bike in the United States, while also one where people most want to walk and bike. Construction of The Underline trail will significantly improve connectivity of people, creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, schools, including the University of Miami, commercial centers, 2 major hospitals, key community destinations, and over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk. The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that, put simply, will save lives.

The City of South Miami embodies The Underline's vision in our policies, plans, and actions. Completion of The Underline is key to elevating the quality for life of our residents by improving transportation and connectivity of people (instead of just moving cars). We embrace The Underline as providing additional benefits of community resiliency and job creation. The City of South Miami Commission supported The Underline master plan and, as city policy, seeks ways to advance this important project. With support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the City of South Miami can achieve major progress in transportation, safety, and economic vitality. We strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

Philip K. Stoddard, Ph.D.
Mayor



Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

111 NW 1st Street • Suite 1010

Miami, Florida 33128

T 305-375-1357 F 305-375-4605

f Transportation Trust @GoCITT

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July 11, 2018

miamidade.gov/citt

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Secretary Elaine L. Chao

U.S. Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE

Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding – The Underline

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT), an agency of Miami-Dade County charged with oversight of the half-penny sales tax for transportation enhancements, is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works' (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.

Miami-Dade County consistently ranks among the most dangerous to walk and bike in the United States. The construction of The Underline will significantly improve connectivity creating a mobility corridor that integrates all modes of transportation for safer accessibility to jobs, businesses, and schools (including the University of Miami, commercial centers, 2 major hospitals, key community destinations and 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk). Among other enhancements, The Underline Master Plan identifies specific, innovative, and achievable intersection improvements that will save lives and enhance mobility.

The CITT strongly supports The Underline's vision and is dedicated to elevating the quality of life of Miami's residents by focusing on transportation and connectivity. With support of the U.S. Department of Transportation, we can achieve major progress in transportation, safety, and economic vitality. I strongly urge U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

Javier A. Betancourt, AICP

Executive Director, CITT

cc: Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami-Dade Transportation and Planning Organization
Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



July 3, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

The University of Miami supports Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

The Underline can transform the city and our region by providing a 10-mile safe, beautifully-designed open space for residents and visitors, including students and faculty, to walk, bike, and run. The Underline will be linked to multiple neighborhood parks and feature innovative park, landscape, and public space design elements, educational programming, art installations, and other amenities. Built along US1, one of Miami-Dade County's busiest corridors, it will alleviate traffic by offering alternatives to driving, connecting transit, parks, people, and communities.

As the University of Miami fronts roughly one mile of The Underline in the City of Coral Gables, we are delighted that the University of Miami School of Architecture dedicated a visioning design studio class in 2014 that jumpstarted this initiative. We are excited to be a part of this creative project that has the potential to connect people to parks, public spaces, and transit options.

I strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julio Frenk', written over a white rectangular area.

Julio Frenk

cc: Miami Dade County Office of the Mayor
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.

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Executive Staff

Alyce M. Robertson
Executive Director

Christina Crespi
Deputy Director

June 29, 2018

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

RE: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation
Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Miami Downtown Development Authority (Miami DDA) is pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.


The Miami DDA is an independent agency of the City of Miami. Our mission is to grow, strengthen and promote the economic health and vitality of Downtown Miami. As an autonomous agency of the City, the Miami DDA advocates, facilitates, plans, and executes business development, planning and capital improvements, and marketing and communication strategies.

The Miami DDA supports The Underline mobility corridor which will provide critical first and last mile connections to enhance access to existing public transportation while creating our community's first multi-modal infrastructure. We are especially excited about The Underline's connection to the City of Miami's Baywalk, a bayfront pedestrian gem, and its ability to serve as a spine to a larger network of approximately 180 miles of Smart Trails for countywide access and impact.

The Underline's economic impacts are significant and will become a valuable amenity for surrounding neighborhoods, creating \$300-\$485 million in incremental assessed value for property owners producing new tax receipts for the County and municipalities. Plus, The Underline will increase spending throughout the local economy including \$170 million in total economic output during construction and \$50 million in economic activity every year following completion. It will also provide city amenities that draw and retain high impact talent.

Please support this important project that will contribute to our economic vitality and competitiveness for generations to come.

Respectfully,


Alyce M. Robertson
Executive Director



Baptist Health South Florida

6855 Red Road, Suite 600
Coral Gables, FL 33143-3632
BaptistHealth.net

July 9, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

Baptist Health South Florida—the largest, not-for-profit healthcare organization in our region—has long been committed to developing and supporting wellness programs and preventive medicine. Baptist Health has been at the forefront of the critical shift toward embracing exercise and movement, social engagement, proper nutrition and diet, and other lifestyle practices to maintain health and well-being, and to control chronic health conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes.

As a whole-hearted partner of The Underline, Baptist Health fully supports and endorses the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works' fiscal 2018 grant application to fund the Underline project through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

Because our community-minded missions align, Baptist Health jumped at the opportunity to participate in The Underline project, whose 10-mile path runs adjacent to South Miami Hospital, one of Baptist Health's 10 hospitals. As The Underline's health and wellness sponsor, we support family-family bike rides, community walks and events, and free yoga classes for the community. We also are developing a Healing Garden outside South Miami Hospital's East Tower that will provide a peaceful retreat where people can relax, rest and reflect. Scheduled to open in the fall, the Garden will be a public space open to Underline users, hospital patients and anyone in need of a tranquil urban oasis.

At Baptist Health, we strive to find new ways to promote active lifestyles for our 19,500-plus employees, our patients and the entire South Florida community, where we provide care at more than 50 outpatient and urgent care centers and offer dozens of free educational programs, health screenings and exercise classes. The Underline will encourage active recreation for residents, and active transportation for commuters, who may use the path to bike or walk their first- and last-mile connections to mass transit. This new infrastructure has the potential to reduce traffic congestion and commute time by making it easier and more convenient for people to use Metrorail and the bus system. It's a win-win-win situation.

Helping to make our community healthier is at the heart of Baptist Health's mission, and that's why we have taken such an active role with The Underline project. We respectfully urge you to award the grant funding for this crucial asset in our community.

Sincerely,



Brian E. Keeley

President & CEO, Baptist Health South Florida



July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

Swire Properties is honored to support Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

Swire Properties develops and manages commercial, retail, hotel and residential properties, typically mixed-use developments in prime areas. We aim to create sustained value by developing and managing large-scale mixed-use projects that serve as focal points of the surrounding urban areas. Our most recent Miami investment, Brickell City Centre has essentially reshaped the Downtown/Brickell neighborhood, with 500,000 square feet of retail space, 260,000 square feet of office space and more than 1 million square feet of residential units with a dedicated Metromover stop and easy access to Metrorail.

Our philosophy is to build projects that help build better cities. Likewise, we believe The Underline, directly adjacent to Brickell City Centre will help make Miami a better city, improving mobility and connectivity with a 10-mile mobility corridor directly connected to mass transit. The Underline will be the first of its kind in Miami-Dade county and the model for other innovation infrastructure around the world.

Swire Properties is proud to be an Underline founding donor contributing over \$600,000 to Friends of The Underline, the 501C3 non-profit partnering with Miami-Dade County to make The Underline a reality. The Underline, connected to mass transit is game changer. We strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bowers'.

Kieran Bowers
President Swire Properties, Miami-Dade County

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



July 7, 2018

Office of Mayor Carlos Gimenez
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street, 29th Floor
Miami, FL 33128

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

Terra Group is honored to support Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

Terra is an integrated development firm in South Florida focused on creating sustainable, design-oriented communities that enhance neighborhoods and bring people together. Founded in 2001 the company has played a significant role in the prosperous transformation of the region. The firm's portfolio includes luxury high-rises, single family homes, townhouses, retail shopping centers, office space and multifamily apartments, both in urban and suburban areas. Each development is a strategic investment in the region, with the impact on individual communities always carefully considered.

Likewise, we believe The Underline, directly adjacent to the future Grove Station led by our team will help make Miami a better city, improving mobility and connectivity with a 10-mile mobility corridor directly connected to mass transit. The Underline will be the first of its kind in Miami-Dade county and the model for other innovation infrastructure around the world.

Terra Group, represented by David Martin, is proud to be represented on The Underline Board of Directors as chair of the Underline Real Estate Council. We strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DMartin", written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Martin
President, Co-Founder Terra Group

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

13th Floor enthusiastically supports Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

13th Floor Investments is a Miami-based alternative investment management firm that invests in value-add and opportunistic residential and commercial real estate assets within the state of Florida. We are currently developing the Link @ Douglas, a transit oriented development at the Douglas Metrorail station. Link includes residential, office, retail and public benefit components that add up to 1.5M square feet of leasable development and 75,000 square feet of plaza and underline areas.

We are impressed with the progress and leadership of the Underline initiative. In less than 4 years, the project has secured over 60% in funding commitments from private, local, State and Federal sources. The Corridor runs alongside a major arterial (US1), and below a transit rail corridor, repurposing 120 acres of underutilized land into a dedicated park for pedestrians and bicyclists. The immediate effect will be an increase in transit optionality for those neighborhoods and a reduction of the community's dependence on cars. At the same time, we believe the underline will be a catalyst for significant new development across the corridor, creating significant new tax receipts for the County and the cities of Miami, Coral Gables and South Miami.

The Underline, connected to mass transit is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a better city. We strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arnaud Karsenti'.

Arnaud Karsenti
Managing Principal, 13th Floor Investments

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Letter of Support for Miami-Dade County Application for
FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding for The Underline

Dear Secretary Chao:

NP International (NPI), a company with a 127-year history in real estate development, continuously monitors demographic behaviors that shape national trends. NPI has been following the ever-growing movement away from a car-centric society to one that is searching for and developing alternative means of connectivity. In our work throughout the United States we have seen how transit-oriented development connected to multi-modal access and public green spaces transforms the way a community lives, works and plays.

Many nationally and internationally recognized cities are seeking out ways to define their vision for the future of urban design and how to cultivate civic, commercial, educational and cultural engagement. The Underline is proving to be an element of that vision for Miami-Dade. That's why we have two large-scale projects (which have earned the Washington D.C. based, Transit Oriented Institute's highest seal of approval) under development adjacent to the future Underline. NPI has committed to investing approximately \$3.5 million dollars to build a material segment of The Underline, to act as a catalyst for the project, which has garnered national recognition and is destined to become a model for other Cities that face continued expansion and look to good planning practices for sustainable growth.

The Underline will create a connection between multiple environments and transform 120 acres of underutilized land into a dedicated facility for pedestrians and bicyclists. Miami, which saw its "Walk Score" rating increase by one point since last year (2017), has surpassed Philadelphia to become the fourth-most walkable city. Since 2008 there has been a steady decline in the number of driver's licenses issued nationwide as reported by the U-M Transportation Institute. In order to support this upward trend and the indisputable fact that there are less SOV's on the road today, we must support initiatives that provide alternative means of transportation and connectivity.

In less than 4 years, The Underline, from the unwavering commitment of both the public and private sectors, has secured over 60% in funding. The "Underline Movement" will enhance and accelerate opportunities for more than 20 million square feet of potential new development, with an estimated \$3 billion in new gross taxable value for the County and the cities of Miami, Coral Gables and South Miami.

NP International enthusiastically supports and encourages the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve Miami-Dade County's application for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Reynolds', is written over a horizontal line.

Brent Reynolds
CEO NP International

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office and Department of Transportation and Public Works



July 2, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant
Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

Mast Capital is proud to support Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

Mast Capital is a leading real estate investor and developer, with experience acquiring residential and commercial properties in some of the most desirable locations in the U.S. We are currently building a residential development near the Douglas Metrorail station and the future Underline. We believe in the growth opportunities in Miami and how our development connected to Metrorail mass transit and The Underline mobility corridor will be a new vision for urban development in our city, and be the model/best practices for development for other car-centric communities.

We are impressed with the progress and leadership of the Underline mobility corridor. In less than 4 years, the project has secured over 60% in funding commitments from private, local, State and Federal sources. The Corridor runs alongside a major arterial (US1), below a transit rail corridor, repurposing 120 acres of underutilized land into a dedicated facility for pedestrians and bicyclists connecting all modes of transit and reducing the community's dependence on cars. It will also enhance and accelerate opportunities for more than 20 million square feet of potential new development across the corridor, with a total estimated \$3 billion in new gross taxable value creating significant new tax revenue for the County and the cities of Miami, Coral Gables and South Miami.

The Underline, connected to mass transit is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a better city. We strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Camilo Miguel", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Camilo Miguel
Chief Executive Officer/Founder

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.

July 6, 2018

ALBERTO IBARGÜEN
President

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to you in support of Miami-Dade County's application to obtain funding for The Underline pursuant to the Department of Transportation's 2018 Transportation Discretionary Grant Program. This is a critical opportunity for Miami to become a more livable, connected community, and for the country to witness how transportation infrastructure can serve as a hub for all kinds of community activity and engagement.


The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation supports more informed and engaged communities and invests in 26 cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers—including Miami, which is also where we are headquartered. I write to you today as both a believer in Miami, and as a resident.

The Underline is a transformational project for Miami. It will connect 10 miles of underutilized space under Miami's elevated commuter rail system into an activated linear park and art destination. The Underline will yield significant benefits, including:

- **Driving Economic Development:** The Underline will create an estimated \$300-\$485 million in incremental assessed value for property owners, equating to \$6-\$10 million in new annual tax revenue for Miami-Dade County and multiple municipalities (HR&A Advisors).
- **Connecting Diverse Communities:** When completed, will serve over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk, will provide access to public transportation to one university and 24 schools, two hospitals, three urgent care facilities, four major malls, and over 11,000 businesses.
- **Activating Underutilized Space:** Corridor runs alongside a major arterial (US1), below a transit rail corridor, repurposing 120 acres of underutilized land into a dedicated facility for pedestrians and bicyclists connecting all modes of transit.

We at Knight have supported The Underline since its inception and have invested over \$500,000 dollars in the project over the past three years. We now encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to consider funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,


Alberto Ibarguen
President/CEO
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

Miami Dade College fully supports Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

Miami Dade College is a staple institution in Miami-Dade County and understands the importance of creating spaces throughout the County for bike trails, parks, and access to art. The Underline project will develop a space like this using existing, underutilized land. Two of the college's campuses are within walking distance to the Underline and the College is an active partner by providing volunteers and interns, as well as engaging faculty and students from architecture, graphic design, art, video production, and other related-disciplines.

- The Underline will create more than 1,000 jobs during construction and 400 + permanent jobs during operations of the corridor.
- When completed, will serve over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk, will provide access to public transportation to 1 University and 24 schools, 2 hospitals, 3 urgent care facilities, 4 major malls and over 11,000 businesses.
- The Underline will provide city amenities that draw and retain high impact talent.

I strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EJP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eduardo J. Padron

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



Tallahassee Office
236 East 5th Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Tel (850) 222-0199
Fax (850) 222-0979

nature.org

July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) fully supports Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

As an Underline partner, are very excited to advance the butterfly garden initiative with The Underline. With a plan to create butterfly gardens along the 10-mile corridor we are excited to see how repurposed land below Miami's Metrorail can become a nursery to restore habitats for pollinators and butterflies. The Underline's team commitment to restoring native species, and in particular pollinators, will be an example of how infrastructure can serve more than one purpose and positively impact the environment and people's quality of life.

We strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to support The Underline's request for financial support through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

Greg Knecht, Deputy Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy in Florida

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.



P.O. Box 15227
Tallahassee, FL 32317

tax 850.877.3007

www.railstotrails.org

July 6, 2018

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

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) enthusiastically supports Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works' (DTPW) application for FY2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for **The Underline** project. At RTC, we work with communities like Miami-Dade County to transform underutilized transportation corridors into trail networks, enhancing connections for pedestrians and cyclists. The Underline, with its proximity to major transportation arterials and transit nodes in Miami-Dade County, is precisely the type of project that RTC looks to support. Indeed, the following aspects of The Underline are noteworthy:

- The corridor runs alongside a major arterial (US 1) and below a transit rail corridor, repurposing 120 acres of underutilized land into dedicated facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- The Underline will improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety in one of the most dangerous counties to walk and bike in the U.S., safely transversing 36 intersections. Miami-Dade County is working now with the DOT for improving these intersections in order to accelerate pedestrian and bicyclist safety.
- These 10 miles of trails will provide crucial first-mile/last-mile connections to the County's existing MetroRail, MetroMover, trolley, and bus network, as well as the County's developing SMART Plan mass transit corridors, increasing transit use and greatly improving the transit user experience.
- By providing a spine for a larger network of SMART Trails, The Underline's success ensures the success of the broader Miami Loop, a trail network that will eventually span the entire county.
- When completed, the Underline will serve over 100,000 residents within a 10-minute walk, will provide access to public transportation to the University of Miami, as well as 24 grade schools, two hospitals, three urgent care facilities, four major shopping malls and over 11,000 businesses.

As such, we strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Stiers", written over a horizontal line.

L. Elijah Stiers, Esq.
Local Counsel, Rails to Trails Conservancy

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office
Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works
Friends of The Underline, Inc.

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

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

July 9, 2018

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of my professional practice, James Corner Field Operations LLC, I strongly support Miami-Dade County's Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding for The Underline project.

Field Operations is a leading-edge landscape architecture and urban design practice with offices in New York, San Francisco and Philadelphia. We have designed complex multi-disciplinary projects such as New York's High Line, Chicago's Navy Pier, and Seattle's Central waterfront. We have been fortunate to have worked on Miami's innovative Underline for the past five years, completing a Vision and Framework Plan for the entire 10-mile length in 2015, and full design and construction documents for Phase 1: Brickell Backyard, completed in the Spring of 2018.

As the design firm leading the vision and design of the Underline, we strongly believe this will be a transformative project for Miami and its region. It is a remarkable vision for transforming an under-utilized corridor into a multi-faceted public asset. The Underline is envisioned as a unique and sustainable corridor that supports transit and multi-modal mobility, community and neighborhood development, recreation and public life, and inspires innovation in how open space, transportation and redevelopment can be designed holistically. The Underline provides alternative modes of transportation, a significant social and civic spine for the region, and a large-scale linear experience of inviting spaces that foster community, enhance value, facilitate connectivity, improve social exchange, and promote a healthier lifestyle.

As an extraordinarily complex project, spanning various jurisdictions and authorities, the whole project is in continual need of building a broader and more stable base of support. For these reasons, I strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding support for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program.

Sincerely,



James Corner, F.L.A. FASLA
Founder and CEO

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office

The Underline

1172 South Dixie Highway, #559

Coral Gables, FL 33146

www.theunderline.org

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Honorary Board Member

July 13, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao

U.S. Secretary of Transportation

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE

Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Miami-Dade County Application for FY 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program Funding

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Friends of The Underline, Inc. 501(c)(3) it is our honor to support the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program funding.

Friends of The Underline is the non-profit partner with DTPW in advocating and advancing The Underline project. We have created a unique public-private partnership that leverages each organization's assets to make The Underline the fastest moving project of its scope in the United States. And that's a good thing. As one of the most dangerous places to walk and bike, The 10-mile Underline's fundamental purpose is to improve public safety. With The Underline's direct connection to 8 transit stations below the elevated Metrorail, separated bicycle and pedestrian paths, the improvement of 36 intersections, adding lighting and technological advances to improve security and support maintenance, The Underline will be the catalyst for a future multi-modal mobility vision in our community.

We would not be where we are without the support of so many partners and stakeholders, nearly 1,000 volunteers, (even I am a full time volunteer) and nearly \$1 million in pro-bono legal, accounting and marketing services.

Rarely does a community get 120 acres of urban land to work with or the opportunity to do so much with one project: economic return on investment, reforestation of the urban core, improving the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of people and their families, with improved access to schools, jobs, destinations and services, while improving connectivity and safety.

We strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant funding for The Underline through the BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants program and thank you for the opportunity to apply for funding.

Sincerely,


Margaret (Meg) Daly

President/CEO

Friends of The Underline

cc: Miami Dade County Mayor's Office

Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works

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