

Appendix A – Letters of Support

May 15, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

As the Mayor-President of Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG), I fully support LCG's request for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project.

LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish a well-maintained and future-oriented infrastructure with emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movement. University Avenue connects Lafayette to the other regions north of our city. Because of its position as a major connector and gateway into Lafayette, the University Avenue Corridor has been and is an important economic asset to the community.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of rights-of-way removed valuable parking space and many of the existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming or blighted and abandoned properties forming a negative first impression of the city for visitors who enter through this gateway.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Avenue and its importance to the region, LCG has already started the initial steps towards revitalizing the corridor. The Comprehensive Plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015, calls for the revitalization of "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center as well as building upon the community character already present within the University Avenue Corridor to create a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. Additionally, University Avenue and its revitalization have been at the forefront of my administration. I vowed to continue the work of the previous administration to finish improving University Avenue and since my election I have continued to secure resources to accomplish this important project.

LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort in 2018 involving significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large, which resulted in a strategic and cohesive corridor plan for University Avenue. Building upon the plan, LCG, through the AMPO, has secured funding to complete the first phase of the University Avenue Corridor project.

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary

May 15, 2020

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Investment of public funding, that both spurs economic redevelopment and increases the ability and safety for all people to traverse and access a vibrant corridor is vitally necessary, so I wholeheartedly support pursuing the funding necessary to build the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project. I ask you to give this application your utmost attention and consideration, so that this final phase may be completed for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,



Josh Guillory
Mayor-President

JSG/nl

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

May 12, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

By improving both safety and accessibility along this segment of state highway, the *Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor* project will be transformative and serves as a best practices model on leveraging public and private dollars. I would like to express my strong support for Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of this project.

University Avenue is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette and an important economic asset to the community. Lafayette strives to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor connects key institutions in Lafayette; including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana, downtown Lafayette, and Interstate 10. It is critical for the long-term viability is critical for the region's economic recovery.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, the project sponsor continued to advance the project. The local government has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the property for intersection improvements; and, has secured a private funding for additional development. The census tract around the corridor has been designated an Opportunity Zones by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts.

The revitalization of the University Avenue Corridor has extensive support among key stakeholders, including the Department of Transportation and my office. It will save lives while improving the quality of life for many of Lafayette's most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bel Edwards in black ink.
John Bel Edwards
Governor

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
SUITE SH-520
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5824

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

It has recently come to my attention that the Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) is applying for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. They are requesting \$23,298,964 for their University Avenue Corridor project. LCG is prepared to provide a local match of \$5,824,741.

The Lafayette Consolidated Government plans to use the funds to finish construction of the University Avenue Corridor project. The remaining work consists of engineering and construction of Phases 2 and 3. To date, the LCG has spent \$7.3 million on the entire project. Phases 2 and 3 includes the construction of a multi-modal corridor along North University Avenue from Walker Road to Renaud Drive. This section is intersected by Interstate I-10 and connects parts of Lafayette, Louisiana to the interstate. The project also seeks to reduce congestion, increase safety, and improve connectivity to the adjacent neighborhoods.

I appreciate your department's consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

BC/ME

United States Senate

May 12, 2020

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

***Re: FY 2020 U. S. DOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
Transportation Discretionary Grants Program, Lafayette Consolidated Government – University
Corridor Project***

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to you today to respectfully ask that you consider the application submitted by the Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor Project. LCG is requesting \$23,298,964 million in BUILD grant funding and they will contribute 25 percent in local matching funds.

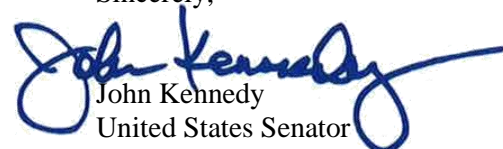
University Avenue is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. This corridor extends through key locations such as the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10, and rural parts of the parish.

LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility could promote an enhanced quality of life in this community.

I respectfully ask that you give your careful attention and consideration to this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


John Kennedy
United States Senator



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

April 28, 2020

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

Secretary Chao,

I write to request your consideration of the Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) application for a fiscal year (FY) 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant. This project represents an opportunity for the federal government to assist with funding that will increase the region's economic viability and stability.

LCG, in partnership with the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Commission, is seeking funding for this project to revitalize a commercial corridor that was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's. Their project, the "Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor Project" has been under development for several years and will benefit the entire region. Since submission of their previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the groundwork for a shovel ready project. Some of the initiatives that have already been undertaken include a comprehensive rezoning plan, designation as a federal Opportunity Zone, and the acquiring of adjudicated property.

Gateway corridors like University Avenue make a first impression to visitors, including future University of Louisiana at Lafayette students, prospective businesses, and new residents. Enhancing the corridor's physical environment, creating a more walkable and bikeable street, and supporting its economic health will positively influence the way visitors perceive Lafayette and the surrounding region, as well as support increased economic development in the area.

Expenditure of public funding that spurs economic development and increases access to key regional assets is a wise and efficient investment. I support LCG's application for FY20 BUILD Grant and hope that you will give it your full attention.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins
United States Congressman



SENATE STATE OF LOUISIANA

GERALD BOUDREAUX
State Senator
District 24

May 5, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the [NAME OF ORGANIZATION], I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's, which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and ongoing disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the ground work for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity

Committees

Member:
Education
Health and Welfare
Revenue and Fiscal
Affairs

Vice Chair:
Select Committee on
Veterans Affairs

Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Boudreaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "B".

Gerald Boudreaux

Louisiana State Senator, District 24



SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

101 W. FARREL ROAD
BLDG. 5, SUITE 100
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508
OFFICE: (337) 993-7430
FAX: (337) 993-7432
CORTEZP@LEGIS.LA.GOV

April 23, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the Senator for District 23 in Lafayette, Louisiana, I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's, which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and ongoing disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan

called for the revitalization of the “Four Corners” at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the ground work for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Page Cortez

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

800 W. Congress Street, Ste. A
Lafayette, LA 70501
Phone: (337) 262-2330
Fax: (337) 262-2332
Email: pierrev@legis.la.gov



Insurance
Transportation
Labor & Industrial Relations

Vincent J. Pierre State Representative ~ District 44

May 13, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the Louisiana State Representative of District 44, I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's, which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and ongoing disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the ground work for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an

adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vincent Pierre

Vincent Pierre
State Representative
District 44



Office of the Secretary

PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
ph: 225-379-1200 | fx: 225-379-1851

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary

May 8, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

By improving both safety and accessibility along this segment of state highway, the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project will be transformative for a community long suffering from disinvestment and decay. This project sets a gold standard for transportation investment and serves as a best practices model on leveraging public and private dollars. It will uplift an impoverished neighborhood and provide new opportunities for at-risk people. Therefore, as Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, I would like to express my fervent support for Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of this project.

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor connects key institutions in Lafayette; including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

Until the oil bust of the 1980's, this commercial corridor was an active and vibrant community. The collapse of the oil industry resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for residents. The combination of these two punches has caused the area's continued decline and disinvestment that is measured by an increasing number of underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
May 8, 2020
Page 2

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The revitalization of the University Avenue Corridor has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. It will save lives while improving the quality of life for many of Lafayette's most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shawn D. Wilson', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.
Secretary

SDW:DM:rmv

LAFAYETTE AIRPORT COMMISSION
LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT



222 Tower Drive

Lafayette, LA 70508-2159

(P) 337-266-4401

(F) 337-266-4410

(E) airport@lftairport.com

04/29/2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the Lafayette Airport Commission's Chairman, I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

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Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University



Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

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The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Segura
Chairman
Lafayette Airport Commission

LAFAYETTE AIRPORT COMMISSION
LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT



222 Tower Drive

Lafayette, LA 70508-2159

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(E) airport@lftairport.com

04/29/2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the Lafayette Airport Commission's Executive Director, I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

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Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the ground work for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Picou, A.A.E
Executive Director
Lafayette Airport Commission



**ACADIANA PLANNING
COMMISSION**
Louisiana Planning
District 4

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Monique B. Boulet
APC, CEO

101 Jefferson St.
Lafayette, LA 70501
PO Box 3705
Lafayette, LA 70502

337-806-9368
www.planacadiana.org

May 12, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

As the CEO of the Acadiana Planning Commission and the Acadiana MPO, I fully support and strongly encourage funding of the Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request for the FY20 BUILD Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project.

In August of 2019, White House WHORC Director Scott Turner and his team toured and visited with residents along the corridor. He clearly understood and communicated that this corridor represents all that President Trump intended with the Opportunity Zone initiative. The BUILD grant investment would provide the much-needed public infrastructure to support not only the safety measures needed but also the private sector investment that it will attract.



August 7, 2019 From Left to right Residents Debbie and Jay Smith, APC Planner Chad LaComb, Residents Giselle and Larry Menard, Resident Doris Clement, Resident and Business Owners Stephanie and Greg Dugan, **White House WHORC Director Scott Turner**, Resident Ms. Linda, APC CEO Monique Boulet, Developer Josh Collen, Chase Terrebonne, Ty Petty (HUD), Louisiana DOTD Secretary Shawn Wilson tour a low income housing initiative being developed on the corridor.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and many of the existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming or blighted and abandoned properties forming a negative first impression of the

city for visitors who enter through this gateway.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Avenue and its importance to the region, APC has worked with an EPA Brownfield grant throughout the corridor. The reinvestment efforts in some commercial parcels are now in progress. LCG has begun the initial steps towards revitalizing the corridor.

LCG has prioritized the redevelopment of this corridor. The Comprehensive Plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015, calls for the revitalization of “Four Corners” at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center. Planning efforts have drawn from the community’s unique history and character within to create a sense of place. Planned improvements include streetscaping and improved physical connections to the surrounding community.

University Avenue and its renewal as a major center of commercial and economic activity in Lafayette Have been at the forefront of the LCG administration, currently being led by LCG’s Mayor-President, Josh Guillory. LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort in 2018 that brought together significant public input from key stakeholders and the general public and that resulted in a strategic and cohesive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Building upon the corridor plan, LCG, through the AMPO, has secured funding to complete the first phase of the University Avenue Corridor project. Also, numerous planning efforts and improvements have focused on disinvested, older areas adjacent or connected to University Avenue including the planning efforts provided by a FY14 TIGER planning grant to mitigate the effects of the future I-49 Interstate Connector project, planning efforts for commercial corridors connected to University Ave. (Simcoe St.), and numerous improvements to revitalize downtown Lafayette.

Investment of public funding, that both spurs economic redevelopment and increases the ability and safety for all people to transverse and access a vibrant corridor, is necessary for the area to build upon its current success. Therefore, I support pursuing the funding necessary to build the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project. I encourage you to give this application your utmost attention and consideration.

Highest Regards,



Monique B. Boulet, CEO



April 28, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As President and CEO of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA), I write this letter in support of Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request for the FY20 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project—known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners."

University Avenue/LA 182 connects Lafayette Regional Airport, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette's main city/parish government offices, Downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10, the City of Carencro, and other regions north of the city. Because of its position as a major connector and gateway into Lafayette, University Avenue Corridor is an important economic asset to the community. This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980s which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment—compounded by the loss of parking for businesses and sidewalks due to a subsequent road widening project. The corridor is lined with underperforming, blighted or abandoned properties which present a negative first impression to visitors who enter through this gateway.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor in 2015 with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana MPO finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY19 BUILD grant application, LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. The census tract around the corridor has been designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and the State has designated the area as a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible with the vision of the corridor plan.

The University Avenue Corridor is ripe for residential and commercial renewal. LEDA will continue to work closely with LCG and other community allies to move the project forward to build a more resilient and versatile economy in Lafayette, LA. I support pursuing the funding necessary to complete the University Avenue Corridor Project. I encourage you to give this application your utmost attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregg Gothreaux". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregg Gothreaux
President and CEO

211 EAST DEVALCOURT ST.
LAFAYETTE, LA 70506 USA
PHONE 337.593.1400
FAX 337.234.3009
1.800.810.7771
www.lafayette.org



804 E St. Mary Blvd. Lafayette, Louisiana 70503 // o 337.408.3664 // f 337.408.3664 // OneAcadiana.org

May 11, 2020

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

Secretary Chao:

On behalf of One Acadiana, I write to fully support the Lafayette Consolidated Government's request for the FY20 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project, known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project.

One Acadiana brings together the business community across nine parishes in South Louisiana to pursue a long-term vision of making Acadiana one of the most high-quality, sought after regions in the South for business and talent. One of our core strategies in advancing this vision is to revitalize the region's core, particularly the areas around downtown Lafayette and the gateways into our community.

To that end, One Acadiana strongly supports LCG's efforts to revitalize the University Avenue corridor. This historically significant corridor, which connects Interstate 10, downtown Lafayette, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and the Lafayette Regional Airport is home to an underserved population and not experiencing the same kind of growth and development that other areas of the city are experiencing. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana MPO finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort involving significant public and stakeholder input, which resulted in a corridor plan for University Avenue that aims to create: 1) a safe and connected corridor, 2) a framework for revitalization, and 3) an inviting gateway to the community. This funding request, through the BUILD Grant program, would provide critical resources to fully realize these efforts.

One Acadiana strongly supports all efforts to appropriate the funding necessary to complete the University Avenue Corridor project, and we appreciate your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Wayman', written in a cursive style.

Troy Wayman, CEcD
President & CEO
One Acadiana



May 14, 2020

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

Re: University Avenue Corridor and the Bottle Art Lofts

Dear Ms. Chao,

On behalf of HRI Communities ("HRI"), I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's, which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and ongoing disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.



Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the groundwork for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development with HRI's Bottle Art Lofts project on the north east corner. HRI has completed transformative projects in other cities where we have had significant public engagement. Lafayette is no different. We have worked with neighborhood groups like the LaPlace Coterie, Townfolk Inc. and the district council member that led to support for LCG's financial loan to facilitate the project. We are excited that LCG has designated this area as part of a Cultural District that affords the opportunity for sales tax relief on original art sales. The project has two phases planned to culminate in a \$35 million mixed-use project at the site, and the full project is planned to contain 105 housing units. In addition, this project will be preserving an historic site which was previously a Coca-Cola Bottling Plant. In addition to our work at this catalyst site, LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Josh Collen'.

Joshua D. Collen
President



May 11, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette fully supports Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as “Four Corners”.

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's, which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and ongoing disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao

Page 2

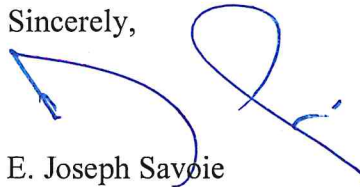
May 11, 2020

in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the “Four Corners” at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the ground work for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



E. Joseph Savoie
President

svc



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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the CEO of the Lafayette Downtown Development Authority, I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project.

This project is a top priority of local government, proven by the first two phases being locally funded through LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO). It has also been top-of-mind in our community for a number of years. Earlier in my career I worked for One Acadiana, the regional economic development organization that serves as the voice of the business community in Lafayette. When surveyed in 2014, business leaders pointed to this project as a top priority, with approximately 77 percent of respondents calling it "very important". These stakeholders understood that improving the condition of this key gateway corridor will give visitors, prospective new businesses, and residents a more positive impression of our community, and will demonstrate a civic pride of place that complements our rich cultural identity.

Much consensus-building and groundwork has been done to prepare Lafayette for this application. LCG's comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette (which was adopted in 2015), called for the revitalization of this very corridor. In 2018, LCG and the AMPO finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to lay the groundwork for a successful project by designing and funding projects to make incremental improvements in the corridor. LCG has also had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Most recently, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to prepare for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

University Avenue is a critical connector and the gateway into Lafayette, as well as an important economic asset to the community. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, Downtown Lafayette, and Interstate 10. Its corridor revitalization will increase connectivity and accessibility from Interstate 10 to Downtown Lafayette and will certainly have positive impacts on the perception of the Downtown Lafayette, which is why we are full support of LCG's request for application. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anita Begnaud
CEO
Lafayette Downtown Development Authority



LAFAYETTE
PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

May 14, 2020

Irma Trosclair
Superintendent
P.O. Drawer 2158
Lafayette, LA 70502
337.521.7000

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As the Superintendent of the Lafayette Parish School System, I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners."

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

This commercial corridor was an active and vibrant place until the oil bust of the 1980's, which resulted in economic decline and disinvestment. Further, the area was negatively impacted by both the widening of University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Highway 90) as part of a railroad underpass construction project. For many of the businesses along University Avenue, the acquisition of right-of-way removed valuable parking space and existing sidewalks that provided alternative modes of transportation, and access for local residents. The combination of these two factors and ongoing disinvestment has caused the area's continued decline with numerous underperforming, blighted and abandoned properties.

Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a yearlong corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the groundwork for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Irma D. Trosclair
Superintendent

DESTINY OF FAITH CHURCH



To Whom It May Concern:

Destiny of Faith Church has been operating in North Lafayette since January 2001. We are writing to express our full support for the application to request all the remaining funds to complete the project north to Renaud Drive for the University Area Corridor project.

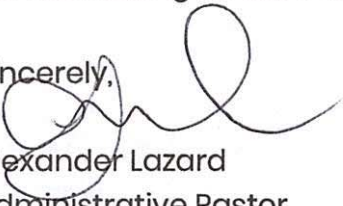
Since 2001, Destiny of Faith Church has been a part of efforts that led our community to a place of equitable change. This was primarily done through the adoption, beautification, and revitalization of the Truman Neighborhood and surrounding intersections. This historic area sits just off University near the I10 exit.

University Avenue Corridor serves as the gateway to Lafayette, a hub to the parish and a home to many people. This asset is integral to achieving not only Quality of Life objectives but also economic competitiveness that can continue to position us for additional investment and jobs.

The attractiveness of our gateways matters to the valuable life, work, and play we in Louisiana have come to expect from our leading cities. We urge you to look upon this application positively as many families, businesses, and neighborhoods stand to increase their quality of life.

We are looking forward to your response!

Sincerely,


Alexander Lazard
Administrative Pastor

337.231.5119 - info@destinyoffaith.church - 409 Patterson Street, Lafayette, LA 70501

Vision - *To see people thrive through Jesus; spiritually, economically, and socially.*

Isaiah 58:12 (NLT) - *"Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes."*

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

As a representative for TownFolk, Inc., I fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request to apply for the FY20 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor project – known as the Re-BUILDing University Avenue Corridor project. The first two phases are funded through both the Acadiana MPO and LCG in the amount of \$7.3 million. Phase 1 of the project is design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road with Phase 2 consisting of improvements at the Cameron St. and University Ave. intersection, known locally as "Four Corners".

University Ave. is a major regional connector and the gateway into Lafayette as well as an important economic asset to the community. LCG strives to enhance the quality of life of the community, to promote a city that is safe, and to establish well-maintained, multi-modal infrastructure with an emphasis on convenient and efficient transportation movements. This corridor extends through key functions in our city including the Lafayette Regional Airport, the city police department and the main city/parish government and judicial offices, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus, downtown Lafayette, Interstate 10 and then heads north to Carencro.

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Recognizing the challenges facing University Ave. and its importance to the region, LCG began building support for revitalizing the corridor with its comprehensive plan, PlanLafayette, adopted in 2015. The plan called for the revitalization of the "Four Corners" at the intersection of University Avenue and Cameron Street (US 90) as an employment and job center and the creation of a sense of place through streetscape improvements and physical connections to the surrounding community. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) finalized a year-long corridor visioning and planning effort that involved significant public input with key stakeholders and the public at-large. This resulted in a strategic and comprehensive corridor plan for University Avenue.

Since the previous FY2019 BUILD grant application, LCG has continued to work to lay the ground work for a successful project. At the key intersection of University Ave. and Cameron St., LCG has designed and funded a landscape project that seeks to provide shade and increased pedestrian mobility through the intersection to the railroad overpass; has obtained the ownership of an adjudicated property at the south east corner for intersection improvements; and, has been a partner to secure a private, catalytic development on the north east corner. LCG has had the census tract around the corridor designated an Opportunity Zone by the federal government and has had the state designate a cultural district to stimulate historic preservation and the arts. Finally, LCG has completed a comprehensive rezoning and overlay district through the entire corridor to plan for development that will be compatible to the vision of the corridor plan.

The revitalization of the University Avenue corridor and its increased safety and mobility has extensive support among key stakeholders in this community. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Borel Doucet
President, TownFolk, Inc.

May 12, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Chao,

We are the LaPlace Neighborhood Coterie and represent the residents and businesses in the downtown Lafayette, Louisiana area around the University Avenue Corridor.

We fully support Lafayette Consolidated Government's application for the FY20 BUILD Grant. This will allow us to construct the final phase of our Corridor project. Phase 1 (design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road) and phase 2 (our Four Corners intersection improvements at Cameron Street and University Avenue) are funded for \$7.3 million dollars through the Acadiana MPO and LCG.

University Avenue is the gateway into Lafayette from Interstate I-10 to our regional airport. Our City Hall, our historic middle school building, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Police Department to name a few are all located on this corridor.

This area was the hub of activity until the 1980's. A decline in our oil business resulted in abandoned and blighted properties. Taking away sidewalks and parking spaces to build a railroad underpass also effected our residents and businesses.

Our local government has developed a comprehensive plan to revitalize the Four Corners area and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) has also finalized a year-long plan for the University Corridor.

Our government is working to revitalize the intersection at Cameron Street and University Avenue by working on (1) landscape project (2) obtaining ownership of an adjudicated property to help with road improvements (3) partnered with a developer to build residential apartments and retail stores and (4) created an overlay district (5) rezoned property so that future developments will be compatible with our plan's vision. This corridor is also a State of Louisiana cultural district to help with historic preservation and promoting the arts and finally a federal government Opportunity Zone.

We thank you for time and ask for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrill Lorio
LaPlace Neighborhood Coterie



512 N University Ave
Ph: 337-235-5565
E: admin@bridgeacadiana.org

May 6, 2020

Katrena Ann King | *Planner II*
Lafayette Consolidated Government
Development and Planning Department
PlanLafayette Office
101 Jefferson Street / P.O. Box 4017-C / Lafayette, LA 70502

Dear Ms. King:

I write on behalf of Bridge Ministry of Acadiana (BMA) in strong support of the Lafayette Consolidated Government's (LCG) request for the FY18 BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant to construct the first phase of the LA 182, University streetscape redevelopment.

As an organization whose primary focus is serving families in underserved communities with a range of youth programming, this support aligns with the rebuilding of the "four-corners" neighborhood we serve and our efforts in revitalizing a once vibrant and robust area of Lafayette. We look forward to the city's investment into the "four-corners" redevelopment.

Sincerely,

Rachael Stonicher
Administrative Assistant
Bridge Ministry of Acadiana

4.22.20

Dear Ms. Chao,

As a private investor and resident of LaPlace neighborhood, I fully support LCG's request to apply for the FY20 BUILD Grant. We need these funds to construct the final phases of the University Avenue Corridor Project.

We started our family at 4-Corners over 40 years ago and we are strongly rooted to the history and promise it possesses.

Please consider our City as you deliberate over this decision. Lafayette is one of the happiest cities in America and we are proud to call it home.

Sincerely,

Kenny + Gisele Menard

April 29, 2020

Ms. Elaine L. Chao
Office of the Secretary of Transportation Av. SE
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Chao

I am currently a resident and was raised on University Avenue in Lafayette, Louisiana.

I support the Lafayette Consolidated Government request to apply for the FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant. We need this grant to finish the final phase of our University Avenue Project.

The first two phases (\$7.3 million) are funded through LCG and Acadiana MPO. Phase 1 is for design and engineering from Jeanne Street to Gilman Road and Phase 2 is for improvements at Cameron Street and University Avenue which we call Four Corners.

This area was a vibrant part of Lafayette with restaurants, a supper club, a movie theater, retail shops, a bottling plant and small businesses. The oil bust of the 1980's helped with the economic decline. Now we have blighted and abandoned properties in our neighborhood.

Construction of a railroad underpass at University Ave. and Cameron St. (US Hwy. 90) affected our businesses. Streets were widened and parking spaces/existing sidewalks were removed.

In 2015, LCG developed a comprehensive plan to revitalize our area and focus on streetscape and connectivity. In 2018, LCG and the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization completed a plan for University Avenue Corridor our gateway into Lafayette from interstate I-10.

Since 2019, LCG is (1) a partner to secure a private residential/retail complex covering one block at Four Corners (2) rezoned the area and created an overlay district so development can follow the plan vision (3) obtained ownership of an adjudicated property needed for our intersection improvements (4) designed and funded projects for pedestrian mobility and landscape. We are a state cultural district and our census tract has been designated as a Federal Opportunity Zone.

Please consider my request for this grant and help us rebuild our neighborhood.

Sherrill Lorio
1716 West University Avenue
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506
337-303-4987

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