

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3809

August 21, 2018

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

RE: Gateway 228 Project
Butler County, Pennsylvania

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my strongest support for Butler County's Gateway 228 Project and request for \$24.3 million through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grants Program. Butler County is proposing \$43.7 million in transportation improvements along two parts of Gateway 228 that have demonstrated significant safety and congestion issues – Balls Bend in rural Middlesex Township and Haines School–Commonwealth in Cranberry Township.

Butler's BUILD request is part of a \$270 million investment in infrastructure improvements to Route 228, a 26-mile freight and commuter corridor and primary link between the County's rural and suburban residents and emerging employment opportunities in the region. A little more than \$103 million has already been invested in Gateway 228 to prepare for construction of Shell Chemicals' \$6 billion ethane cracker plant in neighboring Beaver County and accommodate traffic on Route 228 from the influx of 6,000 construction and 600 permanent jobs at the plant. (Plus, nearly \$94 million is being expended on Route 228 upgrades in Beaver County.)

These initial investments in Gateway 228 have set the stage for Butler's BUILD Project, which will have completed administrative, transportation planning and environmental (National Environmental Policy Act) requirements nine months prior to September 30, 2020, the program's deadline. And, construction of the Project is scheduled to be completed by October 2024, nearly one year before BUILD's September 30, 2025 deadline. In other words, by program definition, the Project is ready to go.

Today's insufficient capacity and increasing safety problems along Route 228 are impeding the economic viability of this vital corridor. A successful BUILD application will enable Butler County to achieve a prosperous and sustainable future, which is good for western Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth overall. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Shuster
United States Representative
9th Legislative District