



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Fort Hall Agency
P.O. Box 220
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203-0220

June 20, 2019

Elaine Chao, Secretary
US Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Hall Agency, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the BUILD grant application submitted by the Shoshone- Bannock Tribes Transportation Program to fund the Fort Hall Connect: Strengthening Community through Transportation Investment.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Fort Hall Agency's mission is to fulfill the Federal Government's trust responsibilities and to promote self-determination of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Government. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes operate the Transportation Program under a P.L. 93-638 Contract and are developing a very efficient and professional Transportation Program. This proposed project will be instrumental in improving the proposed transportation corridor within this planned development. The economic and social growth, which this infrastructure will support, is vital to continued success of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and their efforts in the pursuit of self-determination.

The Fort Hall Connect is very important for our region as it will foster economic growth, improve safety, support connectivity, improve transit options and create a new model for beneficial development in the State of Idaho and throughout Indian Country.

This proposed project will significantly increase safety for the traveling public in this area. Additionally, this proposed project will provide a much needed transportation corridor which will assist the Tribes economic growth into the future. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Idaho have been working diligently for the past several years planning and developing this project. This grant would be instrumental in moving forward from the planning and development stage to actually implementing this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this beneficial project.

Sincerely,

Randy A. Thompson Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs Fort Hall Agency