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May 13, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Bannock Transportation Planning Organization (BTPO), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the BUILD grant application being submitted by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to fund the Fort Hall Connect: Strengthening Community through Transportation Investment.

BTPO is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Pocatello/Chubbuck urbanized area, which is adjacent to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal lands. BTPO is responsible for long-range transportation planning in the region.

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

The project also adds value to the currently under construction Northgate Interchange project located just south of proposed improvement. The I-15 Corridor is critical to the long-term economic success of Southeast Idaho. The Fort Hall Connect Project will set the stage for an increase in mobility and economic improvement in the region.

The Bannock Transportation Planning Organization's Policy Board is excited about the project, and gladly provides our support for the BUILD Grant application.

Thank you for your consideration of this beneficial and needed project.

Sincerely,

W. James Johnston,
Policy Board Chair

