



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



September 12, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Department of Transportation, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the TIGER grant application being submitted by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to fund the Fort Hall Connect: Strengthening Community through Transportation Investment.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Fort Hall Agency's mission is to fulfill its trust responsibilities and to promote self-determination of the Tribal Government of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have contracted the Transportation program and are developing a very efficient and professional transportation program. This proposed project will be instrumental in the development of this program. The economic and social growth, which this infrastructure will support, is vital to the 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 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