

MONTABELLO BOULEVARD GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT

FY 2019 BUILD Grant Application

Letters of Support



Submitted by:
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

July 15, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

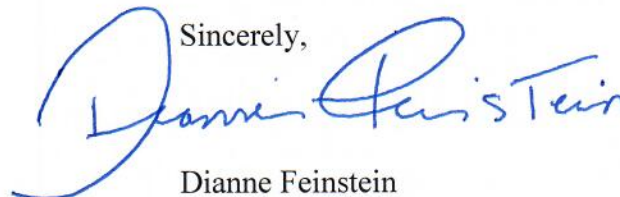
I write in support of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' application for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, administered by the Department of Transportation.

The Alameda Corridor and East Montebello Boulevard is one of the most crash-prone crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles County. Since 1977, five traffic collisions, three pedestrians killed, and one motorist injured have been recorded. In addition, an average of thirty-two freight trains and dozen Metrolink commuter trains use the railroad daily which causes heavy traffic congestion. It is projected that this will increase to a daily total of fifty-four freight and commuter trains over the next five years. In addition, the Alameda Corridor-East connects Southern California's ports to the transcontinental rail network which carries 16% of the nation's exports and imports. It is considered one of the nation's busiest freight rail corridors.

The proposed project will improve the safety of the community, reduce travel time and the output of carbon emissions, and facilitate the flow of goods to local and national markets. The construction of the roadway underpass on Montebello Boulevard will reduce vehicle queuing which will reduce the output of carbon emissions. In addition, the roadway underpass will improve the reliability and safety of the freight trains on the Alameda Corridor to the transcontinental rail network.

I urge you to give the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' application your full consideration. Please keep my office informed of the status of this request, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Los Angeles office at (310) 914-7300.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:me

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2019

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

**Re: Support for BUILD grant application for the Alameda Corridor-East
Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project, City of Montebello, California**

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing in strong support of the *Alameda Corridor-East Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project* application seeking funds from the FY 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or “BUILD” discretionary grant program for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is requesting \$20 million in BUILD grant funds for the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project which will improve safety at one of the most crash-prone crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles County. Five collisions have been recorded at the crossing since 1977, with three pedestrians killed and one motorist injured. The project will improve safety by eliminating collisions at the crossing, and will enhance traffic flows by reducing vehicle queuing and congestion at the crossing, in turn reducing vehicle emissions. The project will also decrease transportation costs and improve access for residents and businesses located in nearby Opportunity Zones by providing reliable and timely access to employment centers.

This high-priority grade separation is a component of a comprehensive program of infrastructure improvements in Southern California to improve transportation safety, reliability and mobility at rail crossings and reduce the negative community and environmental impacts resulting from one of the nation’s busiest freight rail corridors. The Alameda Corridor-East connects Southern California’s ports to the transcontinental rail network, carries 16 percent of the nation’s oceangoing containerized exports and imports and was designated by Congress as a Trade Corridor of National Significance. The freight railroad is used by an average of 32 freight trains per day as well as a dozen daily Metrolink commuter trains, projected to grow to a daily total of 52 freight and commuter trains over the next five years.

The project is a high priority for the State of California, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Union Pacific Railroad, which have committed \$113.3 million in funds to the project, or more than \$5 for every \$1 in requested BUILD funds. The project is in the final design and right-of-way phase and, by utilizing the NEPA assignment streamlining process, can be ready to initiate construction in early 2021, well in advance of the BUILD obligation deadline of September 2021.

We thank you for your leadership of the Department of Transportation and your attention to this grant request.

Sincerely,



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



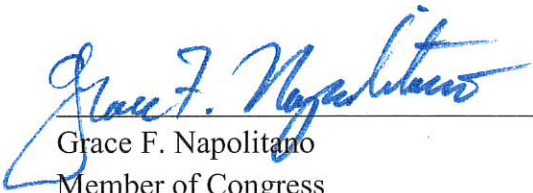
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Second Vice President
Rex Richardson, Long Beach

Immediate Past President
**Alan D. Wapner, San Bernardino
County Transportation Authority**

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Human Development
**Peggy Huang, Transportation
Corridor Agencies**

Energy & Environment
Linda Parks, Ventura County

Transportation
Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

July 11, 2019

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

RE: Application from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to the USDOT BUILD Grant Program

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), I would like to offer this letter of support for the application from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for \$20 million in funding for the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project.

This project will improve safety at one of the most crash-prone crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles County. Five collisions have been recorded at the crossing since 1977, with three pedestrians killed and one motorist injured. The project will improve safety by eliminating collisions at the crossing and will enhance traffic flows by reducing vehicle queuing, congestion at the crossing, and vehicle emissions. The project will also decrease transportation costs and improve access for residents and businesses located in nearby Opportunity Zones by providing reliable and timely access to employment centers.


This high-priority grade separation is a component of a comprehensive program of infrastructure improvements in Southern California to improve transportation safety, reliability, and mobility at rail crossings and reduce the negative community and environmental impacts resulting from one of the nation's busiest freight rail corridors. The Alameda Corridor-East connects Southern California's ports to the transcontinental rail network, carries 16% of the nation's oceangoing containerized exports and imports, and was designated by Congress as a Trade Corridor of National Significance. The freight railroad is used by an average of 32 freight trains per day as well as a dozen daily Metrolink commuter trains and is projected to grow to a daily total of 52 freight and commuter trains over the next five years.

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
United States Department of Transportation
July 11, 2019
Page 2 of 2

The project is a high priority for the State of California and for the Southern California region with \$113.3 million in state and regional funds committed to the project, or more than \$5 for every \$1 in requested BUILD funds. The project is in the final design and right-of-way phase and, by utilizing the NEPA assignment streamlining process, can be ready to initiate construction in early 2021, well in advance of the BUILD obligation deadline of September 2021.

As a project that is consistent with policies and goals as set forth in the adopted 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), we support SGVCOG's efforts and respectfully request that the USDOT give full and fair consideration to this important project proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Annie Nam, Manager of Goods Movement & Transportation Finance, at (213) 236-1827 or by email at nam@scag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kome Ajise
Executive Director

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

AECOM

Alameda Corridor-East
Project, San Gabriel Valley
Council of Governments

Broward County's
Port Everglades

California Department
of Transportation

Cambridge
Systematics, Inc.

Canaveral Port Authority

Cascadia Center

Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

City of Chicago

City of Industry

COMPASS – Community
Planning Association of
Southwest Idaho

Dewberry

Economic Development
Coalition of
Southwest Indiana

Florida Department
of Transportation

Florida East
Coast Railway

Florida Ports Council

Florida Transportation
Builders' Association, Inc.

Freight Mobility Strategic
Investment Board
(Washington State)

Gateway Cities Council of
Governments

HERZOG

HNTB Corporation

Illinois Soybean
Association

Intermodal Association
of North America

Kootenai Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Los Angeles
County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

Majestic Realty Co.

Maricopa Association of
Governments

Memphis Chamber of
Commerce

Metal Fatigue Solutions

Metropolitan Transportation
Commission

July 8, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Project of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is seeking BUILD discretionary funds for their **Alameda Corridor-East Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project**. ACE is a member of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC), a national group dedicated to improving our nation's multimodal freight infrastructure.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is requesting \$20 million in BUILD grant funds for the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project to improve safety at one of the most crash-prone crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles County. The project will improve safety by eliminating collisions at the crossing, and will enhance traffic flows by reducing vehicle queuing and congestion at the crossing, in turn reducing vehicle emissions.

The Alameda Corridor-East connects Southern California's ports to the transcontinental rail network, carries 16 percent of the nation's oceangoing containerized exports and imports and was designated by Congress as a Trade Corridor of National Significance. The freight railroad is used by an average of 32 freight trains per day as well as a dozen daily Metrolink commuter trains, projected to grow to a daily total of 52 freight and commuter trains over the next five years.

The project is a high priority for the state of California and for the Southern California region, with \$113.3 million in state and regional funds committed to the project, or more than \$5 for every \$1 in requested BUILD funds. The project is in the final design and right-of-way phase and, by utilizing the NEPA assignment streamlining process, can be ready to initiate construction in early 2021, well in advance of the BUILD obligation deadline of September 2021.

We hope you'll consider the merits of the **Alameda Corridor-East Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project** application. As an organization, we support investments in freight infrastructure and we encourage USDOT to continue investing in goods movement projects through the BUILD grant program. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elaine Nessle
Executive Director

Moffatt & Nichol

National Railroad
Construction and
Maintenance
Association

NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

Nossaman LLP

Ohio Kentucky Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Port Authority of
New York & New Jersey

Port Houston

Port Newark Container
Terminal

Port of Hueneme

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Port of New Orleans

Port of Oakland

Port of Portland, OR

Port of San Diego

Port Tampa Bay

Port of Vancouver USA

Ports America
Chesapeake

Prime Focus, LLC

Puget Sound Regional
Council

RAILCET

SANDAG - San Diego
Association of
Governments

Southern California
Association of
Governments

Tampa Hillsborough
Expressway Authority

Tennessee Department
of Transportation

Washington State
Department of
Transportation

Will County Center for
Economic Development

WSP

July 9, 2019

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

Re: Support for BUILD grant application for the Alameda Corridor-East Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project, City of Montebello, California

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Union Pacific, I am writing in support of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments *Alameda Corridor-East Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project* application seeking funds from the FY 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or “BUILD” discretionary grant program. Their project will enhance traffic flows by reducing vehicle queuing and congestion at the crossing, in turn reducing vehicle emissions. It is our understanding, this project is a high priority for the state of California and for the Southern California region.

Union Pacific has an excellent relationship with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and looks forward to working with them if they are awarded a 2019 BUILD grant. Furthermore, we look forward to continuing to work with the parties involved to ensure the plans follow our engineering standards and safety requirements. Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Aug. 16, 2019



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

**Re: Support for BUILD grant application for the Alameda Corridor-East
Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project, City of Montebello, Calif.**

Dear Secretary Chao:

Mobility 21 is in support of the Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project application seeking funds from the FY 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or "BUILD" discretionary transportation grant program.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is requesting \$20 million in BUILD grant funds for the Montebello Boulevard Grade Separation Project which will improve safety at one of the most crash-prone crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad in Los Angeles County. Five collisions have been recorded at the crossing since 1977, with three pedestrians killed and one motorist injured. The project will improve safety by eliminating collisions at the crossing, and will enhance traffic flows by reducing vehicle queuing and congestion at the crossing, in turn reducing vehicle emissions. The project will also decrease transportation costs and improve access for residents and businesses located in nearby Opportunity Zones by providing reliable and timely access to employment centers.

This high-priority grade separation is a component of a comprehensive program of infrastructure improvements in Southern California to improve transportation safety, reliability and mobility at rail crossings and reduce the negative community and environmental impacts resulting from one of the nation's busiest freight rail corridors. The Alameda Corridor-East connects Southern California's ports to the transcontinental rail network, carries 16 percent of the nation's oceangoing containerized exports and imports and the ACE rail-roadway grade separations have been designated by Congress as a Trade Corridor of National Significance. The freight railroad is used by an average of 32 freight trains per day as well as a dozen daily Metrolink commuter trains, projected to grow to a daily total of 52 freight and commuter trains over the next five years.

The project is a high priority for the state of California and for the Southern California region, with \$113.3 million in state and regional funds committed to the project, or more than \$5 for every \$1 in requested BUILD funds. The project is in the final design and right-of-way phase and, by utilizing the NEPA assignment streamlining process, can be ready to initiate construction in early 2021, well in advance of the BUILD obligation deadline of September 2021.

We thank you for your leadership of the Department of Transportation and your attention to this grant request.

Sincerely,

Jenny Larios
Executive Director

COALITION PARTNERS

Automobile Club of
Southern California

Chambers of Commerce
Alliance of Ventura &
Santa Barbara Counties

Inland Empire
Economic Partnership

Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

Metrolink

Orange County
Business Council

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Riverside County
Transportation Commission

San Bernardino County
Transportation Authority

Southern California
Association of Governments

Ventura County
Transportation Commission