

March 1, 2019

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

**Re: Support for the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) FY  
2019 INFRA Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

The construction of the SR 76 Freight and Capacity Improvement Project in Itawamba County, Mississippi will improve the safety, efficiency and reliability within a critical developing segment of the NHS and a key connector to the US 78 (I-22) Tier 1 Freight Corridor on the Mississippi Freight Network. The proposed project will construct a new 8.3-mile segment of a four (4) lane Principal Arterial facility and will complete the Appalachian Development Highway System in Mississippi. The completion of this project will serve as an economic catalyst to the developing automobile manufacturing industry corridor anchored by the Toyota assembly plant currently in production near Blue Springs, MS and the Toyota-Mazda joint production facility under construction near Huntsville, AL.

This letter serves as my formal support for this needed project and I encourage the USDOT to award the requested \$57.6 million of Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Project INFRA Grant FY 2019 funds to this important project. The INFRA funds will also leverage \$38.4 million of MDOT federal and state program funds for the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and if you have questions or need additional information regarding my support for MDOT's FY 2019 INFRA grant application for this project in Itawamba County, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,