



Appendix A:

Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
201 W. CAPITOL AVENUE, ROOM 216
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101



(573) 751-3222
WWW.GOVERNOR.MO.GOV

Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
May 13, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49 (I-49). The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and the cities of Raymore and Belton, who see this project as critical for both public safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much needed project that would expand I-49, a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan, from two to three lanes between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern because of the growing number of accidents that have occurred in the past several years due to increased traffic in the corridor. Traffic will likely continue to increase due to several major light industrial development projects in the cities of Belton and Raymore that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. For example, Belton, on the north end of the proposed expansion, is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. Raymore, on the south end of the proposed expansion, is preparing to break ground on a 1.2 million square foot retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. As a result of these projects, and additional projects planned in the near future, I-49 will be a critical interstate for both communities.

I applaud the collaborative efforts of the Cass County Commission and the cities of Raymore and Belton who gathered the necessary data for the grant application this past year and identified several funding sources, such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program, that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region. I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael L. Parson".

Michael L. Parson
Governor

ROY BLUNT
MISSOURI

CHAIRMAN, REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

260 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2508
202-224-5721

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE
AND TRANSPORTATION

RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION,
CHAIRMAN

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

It has come to my attention that Cass County, Missouri, in collaboration with the cities of Raymore and Belton, is applying for a grant through the United States Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program to expand lane capacity for Interstate 49 from 155th Street to North Cass Parkway.

Currently, users of the 155th Street to North Cass Parkway corridor of I-49 experience significant delays and traffic incidents during peak commuter times. Improvements and lane expansions for this area will benefit the lives and safety of travelers. Additionally, the City of Belton has recently opened a new Industrial Park, and expanded access to this park would have economic development benefits to the city and region. This, coupled with the formerly awarded BUILD Grant to improve I-49 at the Missouri/Arkansas border, will continue to make this interstate a vital part of Missouri's, and the United States', economy.

The efforts of Cass County and the cities of Belton and Raymore to pursue infrastructure improvements for their residents is to be commended. It is my hope that you will give this grant application your full and fair consideration.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator

JOSH HAWLEY
MISSOURI

KYLE PLOTKIN
CHIEF OF STAFF

212 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (202) 224-6154
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
ARMED SERVICES
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AGING

May 4, 2020

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

Secretary Chao:

It has been brought to my attention that Cass County, Missouri is applying for a United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant.

The county is seeking funds in order to extend the third lane of I-49 from 155th Street to North Cass Parkway. This stretch of Interstate Highway is located in a rapidly expanding suburban area in the southern Kansas City metro area. The rapid expansion of residential, commercial and industrial development has led to increased traffic volumes and congestion. Extending the third lane is intended to improve vehicular flow and safety for travelers. In addition, it will help move freight in a more efficient manner.

It is my hope that you will give your full and fair consideration to Cass County's BUILD Grant application.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator

VICKY HARTZLER
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
WWW.HARTZLER.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

2235 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
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2415 CARTER LANE, SUITE 4
COLUMBIA, MO 65201
(573) 442-9311

1909 NORTH COMMERCIAL STREET
HARRISONVILLE, MO 64701
(816) 884-3411

219 NORTH ADAMS AVENUE
LEBANON, MO 65536
(417) 532-5582

May 18, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to endorse the Cass County, Missouri application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49 (I-49). It is my understanding that the requested grant would support a much-needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes, from its current two-lane configuration, between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway.

Due to the increased traffic along this corridor, the Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents. Also, this area is poised to see more traffic as I-49 is identified as a tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both the Cities of Raymore and Belton – located in Cass County – are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. Belton is mid-way through a project that would develop more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. Raymore is preparing to break ground on a 1.2 million square foot retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both developments, and these communities are preparing for more similar projects soon.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and the Cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor Mike Parson's cost-sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

I strongly urge your office to consider approval of the grant funding to assist Cass County's improvement project. This grant award would help provide safer transportation measures and economic benefits to the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicky Hartzler".

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey, Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Missouri Department of Transportation respectfully submits this letter of support for Cass County, Missouri, BUILD grant application for I-49 Improvements. The construction of an additional lane in each direction provides safety improvements and congestion relief along this vital corridor in the southern Kansas City metropolitan area.

MoDOT is not able to provide funding toward these improvements, including, but not limited to, utility relocation, professional and construction engineering, and construction. Our limited funding is focused on maintaining existing state transportation system. MoDOT will serve as a key advisor and provide appropriate reviews should the project be selected for funding.

MoDOT's Environmental and Historic Preservation Section has reviewed the information provided and believes that a categorical exclusion (CE) classification is likely. As the project progresses and more is known about the impacts, MoDOT will provide additional reviews.

The broad coalition of support that this project has received, both from elected officials, the business community and transportation stakeholders, exemplifies the regional commitment to improving transportation safety and congestion mitigation.

Sincerely,



David T. Silvester, P.E.
District Engineer, Kansas City



600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105-1659

816-474-4240
816-421-7758 FAX
www.marc.org



May 6, 2020

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

RE: Letter of Support for Interstate 49 BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation considers applications for BUILD Discretionary Grants, the Mid-America Regional Council wishes to convey support for the application submitted by Cass County, Missouri. MARC serves as the council of governments and metropolitan planning organization for Greater Kansas City.

This project will expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

This project is consistent with the goals of *Transportation Outlook 2040*, the region's current long-range transportation plan and is also included as a priority illustrative project in the upcoming *Connected KC 2050* regional transportation plan, and as such, demonstrates the support of the entire Kansas City region for this important investment.

The Mid-America Regional Council supports funding this BUILD application; and we look forward to working with you to make this important project a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Warm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David A. Warm
Executive Director

Chair
Rob Roberts
Commissioner
Miami County,
Kansas

1st Vice Chair
Jimmy Odom
Commissioner
Cass County,
Missouri

2nd Vice Chair
Harold Johnson Jr.
Commissioner
Unified Government
of Wyandotte County/
Kansas City, Kansas

Treasurer
Eileen Weir
Mayor
Independence,
Missouri

Secretary
Carson Ross
Mayor
Blue Springs,
Missouri

Executive Director
David A. Warm

R2020-21

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR THE CASS COUNTY, MISSOURI APPLICATION FOR THE 2020 BUILD GRANT TO EXPAND INTERSTATE 49.

WHEREAS, the City of Belton fully supports the Cass County, Missouri application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application is a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and the cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development; and

WHEREAS, the award of this grant would support a much-needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor; and

WHEREAS, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is midway through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing for more similar projects in the future; and

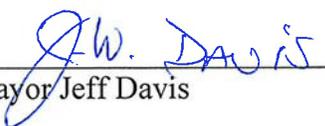
WHEREAS, the City Council knows that working across jurisdictions can present challenges, but the cities of Belton and Raymore and Cass County believe improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region is beneficial to the citizenry.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby approves a resolution of support for the Cass County, Missouri application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49.

SECTION 2. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Duly passed and approved this 12th day of May, 2020.



Mayor Jeff Davis



ATTEST:

Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk
City of Belton, Missouri

STATE OF MISSOURI)
CITY OF BELTON) SS
COUNTY OF CASS)

I, Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk, do hereby certify that I have been duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Belton and that the foregoing resolution was regularly introduced for first reading at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 12th day of May, 2020, and thereafter adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 12th day of May, 2020 by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES: 9 COUNCILMEN: Peek, Davidson, Finn, Clark, Mayor Davis, Savage,
Lathrop, Trutzel, VanWinkle

NOES: 0 COUNCILMEN:

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEN:

Andrea Cunningham, City Clerk
City of Belton, Missouri

May, 9, 2020

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

Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.9 million square feet of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both of these developments and both communities are preparing for more similar projects in the near future.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region.

I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,



**Mayor Kris Turnbow
City of Raymore**

May 12, 2020

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

Re: 2020 BUILD Grant Application – Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are writing to express our support of the Cass County Missouri, application for a 2020 BUILD Grant to upgrade Interstate 49 to 6-lanes. The application represents a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore, and Belton, who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development in all our communities, and the entire southern portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

The award of this grant supports a much needed project to expand I-49 to three lanes in each direction (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern because of the increasing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years due to a growing amount of traffic in this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.2 million square feet of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. Grandview is also preparing for major redevelopment along I-49 with its frontage road conversion project and so I-49 will become even more important to serve future traffic that will come to all these developments.

We applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but all our communities and their elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region.

We look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Leonard D. Jones, Jr.



INTERNATIONAL
COALITION

P.O. Box 101
Shreveport, LA 71181

May 19, 2020

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

Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.2 million square feet of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both of these developments and both communities are preparing for more similar projects in the near future.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region.

I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Curt Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends down the page.

Curt Green
Chairman I-49 International Coalition
903.748.6000

BELTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
17065 S 71 Highway, Belton, MO 64012
(816) 348-1200 p · (816) 348-1271 f
BeltonRegionalMedicalCenter.com



**BELTON REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

May 6, 2020

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

Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.2 million square feet of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both of these developments and both communities are preparing for more similar projects in the near future.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region.

I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Krass".

Todd Krass, CEO
Belton Regional Medical Center



1000 W. Foxwood Drive, Suite 200, Raymore, MO 64083
Phone: 816-322-0599, Fax: 816-322-7127
www.raymorechamber.com
email: raymorechamber@sbcglobal.net

May 4, 2020

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

Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.2 million square feet of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both of these developments and both communities are preparing for more similar projects in the near future.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding. Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region. I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Ewert", written over a white background.

Brent Ewert
President



May 15, 2020

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

Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes. Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.2 million square feet of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both of these developments and both communities are preparing for more similar projects in the near future.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding. Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region.

I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

Diane Huckshorn,
Executive Director

517 Main Street, P.O. Box 350, Belton, Missouri 64012
816.331.2420 | 816.309.1448
chamberbelton@gmail.com | www.beltonmochamber.org

CASS COUNTY
CORPORATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

May 18, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support for the 2020 BUILD Grant application submitted by Cass County, Missouri for the purposes of widening Interstate 49 in Cass County. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much-needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. During the period of 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

This area is poised to see greater vehicular traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan and both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this identified project segment, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, Raymore is preparing to break ground on 1.2 million square feet and the creation of a retail logistics warehouse and shipping hub. The proposed improvements to I-49 identified in the application are critical to the sustained success of both of these developments and similar future projects the two communities are currently preparing.

We applaud and support the collaborative efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton to gather the data necessary for this application and the identification of multiple funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials and their respective staffs have shown a commitment to improving I-49 and the type of teamwork commensurate with improvements to benefit the entire South Kansas City metropolitan region.

I look forward to witnessing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William H. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

William H. Brown
Executive Director
102 East Wall Street
Harrisonville, Missouri 64701

May 13th, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

Belton is located at the influential intersection of several highways that service Missouri and Kansas. This infrastructure expansion would assist with creating jobs for the communities and function as a staple to the economic productivity for surrounding businesses. The city of Belton, Raymore and the state of Missouri provide some of the top labor markets in the region due to workforce demographics and wages, creating long term sustainability.

The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. I-49 will be a critical interstate for industrial development and expansion of businesses in the community.

This expansion would increase quality life, freight transportation, and make the highway safe for emergency services providing room for accident assistance. The expansion of I-49 would benefit transportation needs servicing the Kansas City Metropolitan area and neighboring state of Kansas. This grant would help assist with the funding of the expansion of I-49 to not only benefit the daily commute of the residents but the overall quality of life for these families.

NorthPoint has a passion for the people and we are excited to participate in helping Belton achieve funding to benefit their city's economic development. This application represents the unified partnership of Cass County, the Missouri Department of Transportation, and the business development of local and national companies.

Sincerely,
Brent Miles, Chief Marketing Officer



NorthPoint Development
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Riverside, MO 64150
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12 MAY 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express my full support of the Cass County, Missouri, application for the 2020 BUILD Grant to expand Interstate 49. The application has been a collaborative effort among the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who see this project as critical for both safety and future economic development.

The award of this grant would support a much-needed project that would expand I-49 to three lanes (from its current two-lane configuration) between 155th Street and North Cass Parkway. The Missouri Department of Transportation has long identified this portion of I-49 as an area of concern due to the growing number of accidents and vehicle crashes that have occurred in the past several years because of the growing amount of traffic through this corridor. From 2013-2017 this segment alone had seven fatal and critical injury crashes.

Additionally, this area is poised to see even more traffic as I-49 is identified as a Tier 1 roadway in Missouri's Statewide Freight Plan. Both Raymore and Belton are working to complete several major light industrial development projects that could bring thousands of jobs to the area. On the north end of this project, Belton is mid-way through a project that is developing more than 750,000 square feet of warehouse and industrial space. On the south end of this project, VanTrust Real Estate and Raymore are preparing to break ground on 1,200,000 square foot, Class-A logistics park. I-49 will be a critical interstate for both of these developments and both communities are preparing for additional projects in the near future.

I applaud the efforts of the Cass County Commission and cities of Raymore and Belton who have been working collaboratively this past year to gather the data necessary for this application. In the spirit of collaboration, these entities have also identified several funding sources such as the Missouri Governor's Cost-Sharing program that will help support the project in addition to the BUILD Grant funding.

Working across jurisdictions can always present challenges, but these communities and the elected officials have shown a commitment to improving I-49 for the entire South Kansas City region.

I look forward to seeing this project break ground in the future with the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,
VanTrust Real Estate, LLC



Grant Harrison
Director, Development

We deliver real **real** estate solutions.