

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
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JOINT ECONOMIC

July 8, 2019

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

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by Gallia County to the FY19 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program through the Federal Transit Administration.

I understand that Gallia County seeks funding for the Rural Paving and Infrastructure Gateway Project, which aims to raise the quality of life for the region's "at risk residents," according to the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Project includes replacing 130 miles of stone and dirt roads with an innovative pavement design developed through a research project with Ohio University.

The quality of these stone and dirt roads lead to constant closures, which impacts access to jobs, medical care, schools, grocery stores, and emergency response. Such closures disrupt transportation in the region for days at a time, with the potential to jeopardize both the local agricultural and industrial economies. Assistance from your agency would improve the region's transportation efficiency and residential health.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my Grant Coordinator, Avery Pierson, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator