

February 18, 2026

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC

Re: FY2027 BUILD Grant Program application
Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing: Preliminary Engineering Phase

Dear Secretary of Transportation,

On behalf of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express support for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's (TJPDC) application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY2026 BUILD Grant Program application to complete the preliminary engineering phase of work for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing, which would provide a vital multi-modal connection between the Pantops development area in Albemarle County and the rest of the Charlottesville-Albemarle urbanized area.

The County of Albemarle has actively contributed to the planning work completed to date on this project through participation in the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO), staffed by TJPDC. Due to the collaborative regional planning approach taken to advance this project, a bridge location was selected that will support several ongoing County initiatives. The bridge would improve the overall connectivity of the Pantops development area to the larger urbanized area, integrate with economic development and revitalization goals for sites in close proximity to the Rivanna River, and support Albemarle County's Climate Action Plan recommendations, all by providing safe and comfortable multi-modal infrastructure as an alternative to single occupancy vehicle use. This bridge is supported by the Board-adopted Pantops Master Plan, the Urban Rivanna River Corridor Plan, and recently adopted AC44 (Albemarle County's Comprehensive Plan). The bridge will also support the focus areas identified in Phase 1 of the Broadway Blueprint Economic Development Revitalization Study, including the bolstering of transportation infrastructure to complement changing trends in commercial and residential activity.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors is pleased to offer its ongoing support for this application to complete the preliminary engineering project phase as the next step towards the construction of this bridge.

Sincerely,

Ned Gallaway
Chair, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

CC:
Albemarle County of Supervisors
Jeffrey B. Richardson, County Executive
Andy Herrick, County Attorney