

February XX, 2026

The Honorable Sean Patrick Duffy
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY2026 BUILD (DTOS59-26-RA-BUILD) Planning Grant Application
Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing: Preliminary Engineering Phase

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Policy Board, I am writing to express full support for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's (TJPD) application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program to complete preliminary engineering for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing. The Policy Board recognizes the importance of this regional project and the role it plays in enhancing system connectivity in support of economic growth, safety, and quality of life between the Pantops growth area in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville.

The proposed bicycle and pedestrian bridge has been identified as a high priority in multiple collaborative planning efforts between the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the CA-MPO, and the TJPD. The preliminary engineering phase is critical to refining project design, reducing cost uncertainties, and strengthening future construction-phase grant applications. Completion of this phase will provide updated cost estimates and alignment analysis, thereby improving readiness for implementation funding and minimizing potential risks.

This project has advanced through multiple rounds of review in prior federal discretionary grant programs, reflecting both its regional importance and growing competitiveness. The TJPD submitted applications under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program in 2023, when it was identified as a *Project of Merit*; in 2024, when it was rated as *Recommended*; and in 2025, when it was rated as *Highly Recommended*. These prior submissions demonstrate a sustained regional commitment and continued refinement of the project in alignment with program priorities.

The Board acknowledges that the FY2026 BUILD program provides an important opportunity to advance this project. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of projects that enhance system connectivity, safety, and regional economic vitality.

Sincerely,

Ned Gallaway, Chair
Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization