



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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James M. Wild

June 25, 2019

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Bangert Island Riverfront Transformation Project, 2019 BUILD Grant application

Dear Madam Secretary:

I strongly support the City of St. Charles' 2019 BUILD Grant application for the Bangert Island Riverfront Transformation Project. The project will create accessibility around the island by constructing approximately eight lane miles of new roads, new signals, new street lighting, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit improvements, green infrastructure, reconstructing the existing inadequate roadway infrastructure located along Arena Parkway which runs the perimeter of the project, and create storm water control and protection from the Missouri River.

Although this project is not identified in the region's current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the East-West Gateway Council of Governments (the Council), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the St. Louis region, will amend the TIP if the application is selected to receive funding through the 2019 BUILD Grant program.

The Council recognizes the importance of local priorities and the need to implement them. Given the present level of federal and state transportation funds available to the St. Louis region, it is unlikely that implementation of such an important project will proceed without an infusion of funds dedicated specifically to the project.

Sincerely,

James M. Wild
Executive Director

Gateway Tower
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

314-421-4220
618-274-2750
Fax 314-231-6120

webmaster@ewgateway.org
www.ewgateway.org