



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) for CHIPS Act Loop Jobs Connector

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express Williamson County's financial commitment to the CHIPS Act Loop Jobs Connector funding application.

The Project's estimated construction cost is \$50M (as presented in our MPDG grant application). Williamson County commits to contributing \$10M in non-federal funds to support this Project as expressed in our Project application. The CHIPS Act Loop Jobs Connector Grant Request was approved by the Williamson County Commissioners Court on April 30, 2024 (see attached).

Our county is committed to this Project as the CHIPS Act Loop Jobs Connector project will provide an east-west route between FM 973 and SH 95. This new capacity will provide an alternative to US 79, which experiences substantial traffic delays through Hutto and Taylor, in order to access IH 35 and other major state highways in the area. This improved mobility will benefit existing high-tech facilities located south of US 79, such as Samsung, and new high-tech facilities proposed at the Hutto Megasite. The investment is vital to the economy of Central Texas and aims to provide safe and reliable roadways in an area of rapid population and economic growth. In addition, the reduction of heavy freight traffic on US 79 through Hutto and Taylor will enhance the City's reinvigoration and development efforts in the downtown area. If federal funding is provided, the County will obligate the funding within the time period set forth under federal-aid highway requirements.

I respectfully request that Williamson County's funding commitment be given full consideration as you consider our federal funds request of only \$40M to fill an existing funding gap. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (512) 943-1550 or ctyjudge@wilco.org.

Sincerely,

Judge Bill Gravell, Jr.
Williamson County Judge
710 S. Main Street, Suite 101
Georgetown, TX 78626
ctyjudge@wilco.org