



Steven Snell

Williamson County Judge

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February 10, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation

Re: Letter of Support — Freedom River Parkway East (BUILD Grant Application)

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I write to enthusiastically support USDOT BUILD funding for the Williamson County, Texas Freedom River Parkway East Segment and for the reconnecting of Liberty Hill through the realignment of State Highway 29 around the city. Rerouting SH 29 will allow the City of Liberty Hill to begin realizing plans set forth in their 2040 Comprehensive Plan and build a more livable, walkable, and sustainable community with much needed housing and jobs for the region and city.

Williamson County is a significant technological hub for the United States, accounting for more than \$292 billion in domestic production of electronics annually from Apple, Dell, Samsung Semiconductor, and others. Companies are drawn to Williamson County by its high-caliber workforce, quality of life for workers and partnership opportunities with educational centers like the University of Texas. As a result, Williamson County has become the 9th fastest growing county in America, extending a quarter-century record of growth. The Freedom River Parkway Project will connect suburban and rural residents to nearby high-quality technology and light industrial jobs offering lifelong skill- and career-growth opportunities including those generated by the new Apple and Samsung campuses and the Tesla Gigafactory, many of which have received CHIPS and Science Act funding.

Williamson County is committed to investing in the many multi-modal improvements needed to address increasing congestion, deteriorating travel time reliability and quality of life, and to ensure high-quality jobs, housing, and transportation options. The project will modernize and reroute a critical artery of transportation infrastructure by enhancing a corridor with safety and environmental resiliency features. The region is in increasing need of affordable housing to accommodate the growing and diverse workforce and Liberty Hill has identified a vision to increase not only increase housing supply but provide a diverse stock of housing that will serve area needs.

Williamson County has and continues to make needed investments in these areas as well as in promoting denser, more multimodal-friendly urban mixed-use development. Improvements in the design and capacity of existing surface transportation facilities of Williamson County and the surrounding areas are needed to maintain and strengthen it as a state and national economic hub. With your help, this project will significantly advance our efforts to improve the region's transportation network by addressing aging infrastructure, safety issues in a downtown corridor, and investing in areas identified by local communities - while creating sustainable economic opportunities for local workers and the national economy - opportunities that would be throttled by an otherwise overloaded transportation network.



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I recognize and deeply value Williamson County's commitment to collaboration in planning and delivering impactful projects. By working side by side with municipal governments, local organizations, and community members, the County ensures that infrastructure investments reflect shared priorities and community needs. This inclusive approach has fostered improvements in safer roadways, active transportation, and development that strengthens the fabric of our communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the BUILD grant request submitted by Williamson County. I urge USDOT to fund this critical effort to make this community-driven project a reality.

Sincerely,

Judge Steven Snell
County Judge
Williamson County