



April 24, 2024

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Frank Abbate, County Manager

RE: Item J.1., Letter of Support Ellis Road: Linking Aerospace National Defense and Community – Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG)

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on April 23, 2024, authorized the Chair to execute a Letter of support to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation for Ellis Road: linking Aerospace National Defense and Community MPDG for Ellis Road: Linking Aerospace, National Defense, and Community through the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) program. Enclosed is a copy of the Letter.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

Kimberly Powell
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/ns

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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District 5

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Ellis Road: Linking Aerospace, National Defense, and Community - MPDG Grant Opportunity

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Chair representing the Brevard Board of County Commissioners, I write to express my vigorous support of the grant application submitted by Brevard County for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) for Ellis Road: Linking Aerospace, National Defense, and Community through the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) program.

The Ellis Road Project has been one of the highest priorities for Brevard County over the past 20 years, and through continued regional collaboration and partnership, the project is ready for Construction!

The corridor improvements planned under this grant will facilitate business growth by providing transformative upgrades to Ellis Road that will support the economic vitality of the county and create a safer, more accessible travel experience for everyone. The project will do more than improve the infrastructure along 1.7 miles of Ellis Road; it will build an asset critical for freight mobility, workforce access, and national security. Growing traffic congestion, lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and inadequate stormwater management infrastructure highlight the urgent need for action. The removal of a major freight bottleneck will be achieved by improving access between Interstate 95 and the Melbourne Orlando International Airport by widening Ellis Road.

Ellis Road is a vital gateway to Melbourne Orlando International Airport (MLB) and a Strategic Growth Highway Connector. With seven of the top defense contracting companies located at or adjacent to the MLB Campus, this project is necessary to sustain and enhance growth as the community continues to welcome more high-tech companies and to remain competitive in the global economies. Providing access, goods, and services is important not only to those who call Brevard County, "home" but also to our national interests that are looking to the stars as it plays a key role in continuing to advance innovative technology and the commercial space industry.

The Ellis Road Project: linking Aerospace, National Defense, and Community is worth your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Steele, Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners